

Agaba to export more phosphates

AMMAN (Petra) — A new loading facility with a capacity to handle 1,000 tonnes of phosphates per hour will be constructed at Agaba port, thereby raising the annual exports of phosphates by approximately one to one and a half million tonnes. An agreement for constructing the loading facility, which will cater for small ships, was concluded Saturday between the Ministry of Transport and a West German company. The facility, which will be completed in November 1985, will bring the export capacity to the port to six million tonnes a year. The existing phosphate loading pier in Agaba has two other loading facilities, each with a capacity of handling 2,100 tonnes per hour. The new agreement comes in implementation of the Ports Corporation's plan to provide the Jordan Phosphates Mines Company (JPMC) with enhanced facilities to export its products abroad.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Arab Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة تدار من المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

King congratulates India, Australia

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday sent cables of good wishes to Indian President Zail Singh on the occasion of the anniversary of India's Republic Day and to Australian Governor-General Sir Linton Stephen on the occasion of the anniversary of Australia's National Day. In his cables, the King, on his own behalf and in the name of the government and people of Jordan, wished Mr. Singh and Sir Linton every success and progress in leading their countries' people to further prosperity. The Indian ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Pyare Lal Santoshi, and the Australian Ambassador, Mr. Richard Gate, hosted receptions Saturday evening to mark the occasions. The Indian community also held celebrations at their ambassador's residence Saturday morning.

Delhi marks Republic Day amid tight security, page 8

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Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Nazareth workers stage protest

AMMAN (Petra) — Hundreds of Palestinian workers in the occupied city of Nazareth Friday demonstrated against continuing unemployment and deteriorating living conditions. Radio Israel said Saturday. Israeli factories had already reduced the number of Palestinian workers in view of the economic crisis the Jewish state is currently passing through. Palestinian workers have been a prime target for such curtailments, thus contributing to creating increasing unemployment amongst Palestinian workers.

8 Iraqi children hit in Iranian shelling

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said eight children were wounded when Iranian shells hit a primary school in the southern Iraqi port of Basra Saturday. A military spokesman said that altogether 10 people were injured from the shelling which began at 0830 (0530 GMT). "This crime will not go unpunished...we possess means of destruction that the Iranian rulers cannot face and that will turn civilian targets inside Iran upside down," he said.

China denies arms deals with Israel

BEIJING (R) — China Saturday denied more reports of arms purchases from Israel, which it has no diplomatic ties. "Our position is known to all that we have no dealings with Israel. Such reports are sheer rumors," a Foreign Ministry spokesman told Reuters. Last Thursday, the Washington Times newspaper quoted U.S. State Department and defence industry sources as saying Israel was believed to be selling \$1 billion worth of weapons to China and kept 200 military advisers there.

Dhaka rejects Libyan diplomat

DHAKA (AP) — A newly named head of the "Libyan diplomatic mission here departed Friday after 15 days in the post, after the Bangladesh government refused to accept his credentials, diplomatic sources said Saturday. A Middle East diplomatic source, who asked not to be further identified, said the government would not accept Ibrahim Salem in the post because of alleged terrorist connections. Salem, a close associate of Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, is believed to be an "architect of international terrorism" encouraged by Libya, he charged.

Nyerere begins 1-day Oman visit

MUSCAT (R) — Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere arrived in Muscat Saturday on a 24-hour state visit during which he will seek Omani support for a non-aligned appeal for an end to the nuclear arms race. Mr. Nyerere and his foreign minister, Benjamin Mkapa, are due in New Delhi on Monday for a meeting of six non-aligned heads of state or government to follow up the appeal, Tanzanian officials said.

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Washington, Moscow name teams

Arms talks resume on March 12 in Geneva

LONDON (Agencies) — The United States and the Soviet Union will resume arms control negotiations on March 12 in Geneva, simultaneous announcements in Washington and Moscow said Saturday.

The United States and the Soviet Union have agreed to begin negotiations on nuclear and space arms on March 12, 1985 in Geneva, the White House said in a written statement.

The United States has chosen the three leaders of its delegation to the new talks — Washington lawyer Max Kampelman, former Texas Senator John Tower and career diplomat Maynard Glitman.

Mr. Kampelman, ambassador to the Madrid conference on European security, will head the overall delegation and also will be the chief negotiator on space-based and defensive systems.

Mr. Tower, former chairman of the armed services committee who retired this year, will take charge of negotiations on intercontinental strategic nuclear arms.

Mr. Glitman, U.S. representative to what the West calls the mutual balanced force reduction (MBFR) talks in Vienna, will be negotiator for intermediate-range missiles in Europe.

Edward Rowny and Paul Nitze, U.S. negotiators at the strategic and intermediate-range talks that were broken off by Moscow in November, 1983, will serve as special advisers.

The official Soviet news agency TASS said in Moscow the Soviet side at the talks would be headed by Viktor Karpov, Yuri Kvitsinsky

in the new talks.

Moscow is bitterly opposed to Mr. Reagan's plan to build a space-based anti-missile defence system and has suggested "Star Wars" could derail prospects for arms control agreements in other areas.

But Mr. Reagan said such a shield "could render nuclear weapons obsolete."

Mr. Nitze, according to the Washington Post, last month drafted a new strategic concept which was approved by the president and later relayed by Mr. Shultz to Mr. Gromyko at their Geneva meeting.

"For the next 10 years we should seek a radical reduction in the number and power of existing and planned offensive and defensive nuclear arms, whether land-based, space-based or otherwise," the Post quoted Mr. Nitze as saying at a meeting with reporters.

It said another element of the U.S. position, according to Mr. Nitze, was that "we should even now be looking forward to a period of transition, beginning possibly 10 years from now, to effective non-nuclear defensive forces, including defences against offensive nuclear arms."

Mr. Nitze and Mr. Kvitsinsky were involved in the famous "walk in the woods" two years ago when they tried to reach agreement through informal discussions.

Mr. Karpov was the chief Soviet negotiator at Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START) in 1982 and 1983 and Mr. Obukhov was his first deputy.

Both Mr. Karpov and Mr. Obukhov were in Mr. Gromyko's party at the January meeting with Mr. Shultz.



MONTE CARLO RALLY: The participant cars of the 33rd Monte Carlo Rally are lined up under the Eiffel Tower as hundreds of fans throng to see the start of the prestigious event Saturday (See page 6).

U.S. remains opposed to Mideast conference

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The Security Council was informed Friday that the United States remained firm in its opposition to the convening of a U.N.-sponsored international peace conference on the Middle East.

An American official, speaking on condition that he not be identified, said a recent U.S.-Soviet agreement to meet soon to discuss Middle East issues signalled no change in Washington's rejection of the proposed international conference.

Israel, which is not a council member but which would be a key participant in the planned conference, also remains adamantly opposed to an international conference.

Soviet Ambassador Oleg A. Troyanovsky, on emerging from Friday's closed-door meeting of the 15-nation Security Council, reiterated his government's strong support for a conference that would bring together Israel and all other parties involved in the Middle East conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), as well as the Soviet Union and the United States.

At the request of Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, French Ambassador Claude de Kemoularia within the last week

U.S. maintains almost total blackout on shuttle

HOUSTON (Agencies) — The crew of the shuttle Discovery spent their third day in orbit around the Earth Saturday with the U.S. space agency maintaining an almost total blackout on how the secret military mission is going. Brief reports released by the agency every eight hours gave no details, the latest repeating earlier statements that "Discovery, its crew and the elements of the space transportation system are performing satisfactorily."

The main task of the crew of five military officers is to launch a satellite.

But the air force, citing reasons of "national security," has refused to discuss how it will be used.

The most common theory is that the satellite will spy on the Soviet Union by intercepting electronic signals transmitted in that country.

Sources report the payload carried by Discovery is an advanced

Hoss under pressure to reconsider resignation

BEIRUT (AP) — A key minister in the Lebanese government, Salim Al Hoss, submitted his resignation on Saturday, but other cabinet ministers immediately began urgent efforts to get him to reconsider.

The 55-year-old Hoss, a former prime minister, held the portfolios of labour and education in the coalition government formed in last April by Prime Minister Rashid Karami.

But the American-educated Sunni Muslim leader was better known as the "fireman" in the nine-member, Christian-Muslim cabinet for his ability to help arrange compromises in crisis situations.

His resignation, therefore, would be a serious blow to the cabinet at a time it is grappling with a deepening economic recession, lawlessness in the capital, and the

need to get the Lebanese army in position to move south when the Israeli occupation army begins pulling back.

News of the resignation surfaced while Mr. Karami was holding his regular Saturday meeting with Lebanese President Amin Gemayel.

Nabih Berri, the Shiite Muslim leader who serves as state minister for South Lebanon, told reporters that Mr. Karami was in touch with Mr. Hoss "to convince him to back down."

Saying that he did not consider the resignation "legal or official," Mr. Berri added: "There is a general atmosphere that makes all conscientious people like Mr. Hoss deeply hurt by the current situation, especially when one feels that there are no reforms at the time Lebanon is facing several challenges."

Klibi stresses international role in efforts for peace

PARIS (Petra) — Arab League Secretary-General Chudli Klibi has stressed the importance of the role of the international community, the Soviet Union in particular, in efforts for peace in the Middle East and called for intensified Arab moves to involve world nations in the search for a solution to the region's conflict.

In an interview with the Paris-based Arabic-language weekly Al Mutaqabbal, Mr. Klibi also stressed the urgency to hold the much-delayed Arab summit.

Mr. Klibi described the 1981 Arab summit, held in Amman, as a "turning point in the history of joint Arab action and inter-Arab cooperation." During the Amman summit, he said, Arab leaders, for the first time, endorsed a number of important documents related to joint Arab strategy in the field of economy.

In reply to a question on possible European efforts for peace in the Middle East, Mr. Klibi told Al Mutaqabbal that Italy, the current

president of the European Community (EC), is seeking to initiate new efforts.

Mr. Klibi, who visited Rome and held talks with Italian Premier Bettino Craxi and Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti earlier this month, said: "The Italian government is in the process of evaluating all thoughts on the matter (the search for peace in the Middle East) in order to present them to the EC meetings scheduled to be held in the end of March."

Referring to the next Arab summit, which was originally scheduled to be held in November in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, but postponed due to inter-Arab differences, Mr. Klibi said the conference, whenever and wherever held, will tackle two major issues: "Bringing Arab opinion closer on certain issues and strengthening Arab credibility in support of efforts for peace and stability in the Middle East."

Arab League delegation to pursue dialogue with EC, page 2

Paris killing raises fears of increased leftist action

PARIS (R) — The shooting of a top French official could indicate a change of tactics by the left-wing urban guerrilla group Action Directe, which has claimed responsibility for the attack, police said Saturday.

Rene Audran, 55, a director of international affairs at the Defence Ministry, was killed Friday night as he was driving home in the west of Paris.

He died in what police called an "Italian-style" attack as an unspecified number of urban guerrillas fired eight bullets at him point-blank as he was still seated in his car.

The police pointed out that Action Directe, whose earlier bomb attacks were directed against private banks and government buildings, had never before singled out one person as a target.

A statement telephoned to a newspaper soon after the killing said Action Directe had "ex-

ecuted" Mr. Audran.

The apparently well-planned killing was carried out 11 days after Action Directe and the Red Army Faction (RAF) announced they were forming a "political-military front in Western Europe" to attack NATO targets.

Action Directe has claimed responsibility for a series of bomb attacks in Paris which began in 1980. Three of its members were charged with murder last year in connection with the killing of two policemen in May, 1983.

In Washington, the State Department said Friday the United States was working with its allies to combat terrorist activities following a spate of bomb attacks against NATO fuel pipelines in Belgium.

Identified Action Directe and the RAF, along with the Fighting Communist Cells (CCC) in Belgium, as three anti-NATO guerrilla groups active in Europe.

Virginia plant 'absolutely safe', Union Carbide says

DANBURY, Connecticut (R) — A Union Carbide official has labelled as "purely hypothetical" a company report warning that its West Virginia plant could experience a disaster similar to the one that killed 2,500 people at its plant in Bhopal, India.

Jackson Browning, vice president of health, safety and environmental affairs, also confirmed that 28 leaks of deadly methyl isocyanate gas had occurred at the plant, in Institute, West Virginia, in the last five years.

But he said the company had to inform federal officials of only one of the leaks, a 2.27-kilogramme spill. Federal law requires reporting of any leak of over one pound.

The report was prepared by Union Carbide in July 1984 and released Friday by Congressman Henry Waxman, chairman of the House of Representatives subcommittee on health and env-

ironment.

It warned that a "runaway reaction" could occur at the plant, causing a leak of methyl isocyanate.

Just four months after the report was issued, such a reaction occurred at the Bhopal plant and 30 tons of the gas were released in the world's worst industrial disaster.

But Mr. Browning insisted Friday the West Virginia plant was "absolutely safe" and there was no possibility of such an accident occurring there.

"The report gave a worst case scenario. It took four or five possibilities, put them all together, and said: 'what if this and the other all happened together?'" Mr. Browning said. "It was a challenge to management to come up with answers for what, quite frankly, would be an almost impossible series of events," he added.

Cyprus seeks U.S. help to break impasse in talks

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — President Spyros Kyprianou said Saturday he asked to meet U.S. President Ronald Reagan in the wake of last week's breakdown of the latest effort to re-unite his war-divided island.

"I feel certain that it would be useful to hold discussions at this level," Mr. Kyprianou told a press conference at his presidential palace.

No date has been fixed for such a meeting, but Cyprus was in contact with the U.S. government about this, he added.

Mr. Kyprianou said he summoned the conference to explain the reasons that led to the breakdown of his summit meeting with Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş at the United Nations last week.

The meeting at the United Nations in New York was held in the presence of the U.N. Secretary General, Javier Perez de Cuellar. It broke down on Sunday after four days following vastly different interpretations by Mr. Kyprianou and Mr. Denktaş of a "preliminary draft agreement" prepared by Mr. Perez de Cuellar following three separate meetings with the two leaders over the previous three months.

Mr. Kyprianou refused to give a clear answer when asked whether the United States government was asked to intervene to resume the summit meeting when it became clear it was headed for a breakdown.

"There were certain contacts, but allow me to say that the secretary general and the United States could say something about this," he replied.

The United States has long expressed an interest in settling the Cyprus problem, one of the main causes of a deep rift between its NATO allies, Greece and Turkey. President Reagan is required to submit a report to Congress every two months on progress achieved toward a Cyprus settlement. This



Spyros Kyprianou

followed the lifting of an arms embargo imposed by Congress on Turkey for using U.S.-supplied weapons to invade and occupy the northern part of the island in 1974.

The Turkish action, ostensibly to protect the Turkish Cypriot minority, followed a coup d'état by Greek Cypriot extremists seeking the union of Cyprus with Greece.

The Kyprianou-Denktaş summit was the first meeting between the two Cypriot leaders in five years. It was designed to reach agreement on a framework for the establishment of a bizonal federation that would re-unite the island and which has been partitioned since the Turkish invasion.

During the press conference, Mr. Kyprianou reiterated that the summit "did not prove productive simply because the Turkish side refused to negotiate or to discuss anything and stubbornly insisted on the signing of the documents as they stood."

"We accepted those documents as a basis for the holding of negotiations to find a framework for a comprehensive solution to the Cyprus problem," he added.

The collapse of the summit has already resulted in a deterioration of the situation in Cyprus with Friday's announcement by Mr. Denktaş for the staging of presidential and parliamentary elections next June in the Turkish-controlled part of the island.

The Greek Cypriot side regards the staging of the elections as a step to strengthen the breakaway Turkish Cypriot state proclaimed unilaterally in November 1983.

The establishment of the secessionist state was proclaimed "legally invalid" by the U.N. Security Council, which called for the cancellation of the move. Turkey has been the only foreign government to recognise the breakaway state to date.

An official Cyprus government announcement Saturday charged that the Turkish Cypriot decision to stage elections "undermines the efforts of the U.N. secretary general and violates U.N. Security Council Resolution 550," branding the establishment of the breakaway state illegal.

The statement added that Cyprus Foreign Minister, George Iacovou, in a letter to the U.N. secretary general points out that the Turkish move "constitutes contempt for the repeated appeals of the secretary general for avoiding any activity or decisions that would destroy the climate in view of the new summit meeting."

Following the collapse of the first summit, Mr. Perez de Cuellar declared that the gap dividing the two sides "has never been so narrow," and invited the two Cypriot leaders to meet again before the end of February.

Mr. Kyprianou declared his readiness to attend a second summit whenever the secretary general decides.

Mr. Denktaş said he may not be able to attend a second summit before receiving instructions from the new parliament to emerge after the elections, now fixed for June 23.



DYING GASPS: A paramedic works Saturday to save the life of an Ethiopian refugee who died moments later in a refugee camp in eastern Sudan (AP wirephoto)

Chad, accusing Libya of occupation, calls for Security Council meeting

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Chad has called for a meeting of the Security Council, accusing Libya with continued interference in its affairs and with illegally occupying 550,000 square kilometres of its territory.

The charges came in a letter to council President Claude de Kemourlaria of France, from Chad's Foreign Minister, Ngarue Kessely.

No date has yet been set for a council meeting.

Council sources said the Chadian foreign minister was flying to New York and was expected to confer with the council president on Monday.

Libya supports former Chadian President Goukouni Oueddei, who has been waging a prolonged struggle to overthrow Mr. Habre.

France, which sent troops to Chad to halt a southward advance by Libyan-backed forces, reached an agreement with Libya late last year for a mutual pull-back. Mr. Habre later said Libya had failed to respect the accord.

The Security Council last met to

hear a complaint by Chad against Libya in August 1983 but adjourned after an inconclusive debate spread over four weeks.

Meanwhile, thousands of refugees from Chad and starving Sudanese have converged on a small reception camp in northern Sudan, United Nations officials said Friday.

The officials, of the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said 17,000 Chadians and Sudanese seeking food had gathered at a camp being set up at Azeme near the Chadian border to accommodate 10,000 drought victims.

They said half of them had crossed from Chad and the rest were Sudanese from the province of northern Darfur, where the Khartoum government fears the drought may reduce the normal harvest by half.

Azeme is a small trading centre 25 kilometres from the northern Darfur capital, Geneina, where hundreds of Chadian refugees beg for food in the marketplace while their children scratch for grain spilled by Sudanese traders.

The U.N. officials, quoting reports from Khartoum, said the Azeme Reception Centre was meant to care for 10,000 but it was impossible to keep out many more arriving on foot and by truck.

Five weeks ago reporters who visited Azeme saw about 1,000 Chadians and a few Sudanese camped behind makeshift barricades erected against the cold wind.

They were reduced to eating the cotton-seed oilcake they once fed to their cattle, which had died in the drought, or foraging for nuts and fruit. Children sold firewood or begged.

The U.N. officials said that since then they had bought sorghum at a subsidised price under a United States aid programme.

The Chadians, from the Abbeche region, said they fled because of the drought and threats from men in military uniforms.

The UNHCR and the Sudanese government expect up to 60,000 people to move to feeding centres such as Azeme.

Two bombs thrown at Israelis in Qalqilia

AMMAN (Petra) — Two grenades were thrown at an Israeli military vehicle near the occupied West Bank city of Qalqilia Friday afternoon, Israeli Radio reported. The report said a curfew was imposed on the city and was lifted

Syria, Libya and Iran hold 'steadfastness' talks

TEHRAN (R) — Iran, Syria and Libya are holding "steadfastness" talks in Tehran on joint action against Israel and United States policies in the Middle East, diplomatic sources said.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara arrived Saturday to join his Libyan and Iranian counterparts for the talks. Libyan Foreign Minister Ali Abdul Salam Al Tureki said on arrival Friday the talks would be on "coordinating a joint struggle against imperialism, Zionism and colonialism."

Deputy Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Sheikholeslam recently visited Syria, Algeria, Libya and South Yemen — members of the so-called "steadfastness" front against the Camp David accords between Egypt and Israel.

Iran announced last week that the "steadfastness front" countries would meet in Tehran but it was not yet known whether Algeria or South Yemen would in fact take part.

The diplomatic sources said Iran hoped to revitalise the steadfastness front with "a new name and wider aims to counter the new axis between Egypt and Jordan" and in view of improved relations between the U.S. and Iraq.

Iran lost initiative against Kurds, rebel leader says

LONDON (R) — The leader of Kurdish guerrillas fighting Iran's clerical rulers for autonomy has said that government troops had lost the initiative in crushing his people's five-year-old rebellion.

Abdul Rahman Qassemlu, leader of the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) which has 12,000 fighting men, told Reuters in an interview in London that his forces were frustrating the army and Revolutionary Guards by daily attacks on their bases.

He said KDP guerrillas overran a military base in the north-western town of Salmas this month, killing 410 guardsmen and capturing their weapons. The KDP lost 14 men.

The rebel leader said the guerrilla warfare in the rugged mountains of western Iran had tied down 200,000 Iranian troops guarding cities and villages in Kurdish areas at a time when Tehran needed them to fight Iraq.

According to recent reports in Iran's official press, the Kurds have apparently stepped up their campaign to try to take advantage of cold weather and heavy snow in the region.

Interior Minister Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri said on Wednesday that 80 rebels had besieged a police post for several hours in the latest attack before being driven off by government troops.

Mr. Qassemlu, who is on a publicity tour of Europe, said Tehran, faced with little prospect of winning a victory over the rebels, had sent representatives late last year to work out a political solution to the Kurdish problem.

He said negotiations broke down after his party refused to accept a ceasefire and hunk down on demands for an autonomous Kurdistan within Iran.

Mr. Qassemlu said his guerrillas had killed more than 4,000 Revolutionary Guards and soldiers in the past six months in ambushes, and that the rebels were in control of most rural areas in the region.

Major Kurdish urban centres have been in the hands of the government since 1981, when the KDP was forced out of the towns of Bukan and Oshnavieh.

Mr. Qassemlu said he was not contemplating an offensive to recapture cities because losses would be high and the cost of running public services was beyond the means of the KDP.

Syria declares amnesty for members of Muslim Brotherhood

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria has declared an amnesty for all members of the Muslim Brotherhood, who fled the country when President Hafez Al Assad cracked down on the outlawed group's activities in the early 1980s, official Damascus Radio said.

Quoting Interior Ministry sources, the radio said the amnesty followed contacts outside the country between Syrian authorities and unnamed leaders of the Brotherhood.

It said the Brotherhood leaders had reversed their previous policies, and a majority of the self-exiled members now wanted to "return and back Syria against those who would commit bombings, killings and crime" against the government.

Delay in Israeli pullout 'would exacerbate tension' in Lebanon

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Speaking about the importance of the Shi'ite "factor in the tangled web of Lebanon's politics," a former Beirut correspondent for the Christian Science Monitor said that any delays in Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon will further radicalise the Shi'ites and exacerbate local tensions.

Helene Cobban, in a press conference held at the Middle East Institute and sponsored by the American Institute on Islamic Affairs, reminded her audience that the first Israeli withdrawal "will only be a partial withdrawal." It will, therefore, "still be a cause for hostility" in the Shi'ite areas. She pointed out that "the longer they (Israelis) stay, the more hostile the Shi'ites are going to be by and large."

The Shi'ites are really desperate for peace and security, according to Ms. Cobban, and she said if the Israelis pull out in a short time the Shi'ites are unlikely to "wage a vendetta across the Israeli border because they know that the Israelis are the strongest power in the region and can come back at any time."

If the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon proceeds, Ms. Cobban said it can only "make things better" for the Shi'ites. She also said that Israeli withdrawal "should be good" for the Amal leadership because it will eliminate "some of the pressure created by the Shi'ites," "two very urgent demands." The first being Israeli withdrawal and the second being "some kind of meaningful political reform."

Ms. Cobban has identified "the beginning of a historic shift in Lebanon's complex inter-sect system" and said that the Shi'ites are apt to replace the Maronites "as the premier community within the system."

According to demographic data she has gathered, the Shi'ites currently represent around one-third of the total Lebanese population and are recognised as the "largest single community."

She said the Shi'ites have continuing reasons for being radical, partly because of the suffering experienced by the community in the past 15 years and the multiple uprooting endured by its population. She described many of the Shi'ites as being "near the edge of desperation for something like 10 years now" in financial and social terms. Ms. Cobban said it is not

surprising that the community "should be a host for a lot of radicalism."

Her paper, titled "The Shia Community and the Future of Lebanon," was published by the American Institute on Islamic Affairs and released at the briefing. Although the Shi'ites were the special focus of her monograph, she was quick to point out: "This is not to say that the other communities in Lebanon are not important."

Besides being the largest religious group in Lebanon, Ms. Cobban has written that it is "one of the most vigorous and demanding, having experienced a broad social and economic renaissance during the last few decades, and having been politicised by protracted displacement and destruction" in the past decade. The community "has gone through accelerated social and economic development" in that period, according to Ms. Cobban.

While the leaders of Amal support secular rule in Lebanon and want reforms in the political system which will reflect their increasingly powerful position, they are also under considerable pressure, according to Ms. Cobban, from extremists who are influenced by the radical wing of Shi'ites in Iran.

Ms. Cobban said it is important to understand that although there are historical links between the two communities, the Shi'ites in Lebanon are not "just a satellite" to their counterparts in Tehran. She pointed out that there have been reports of "tensions between

the Revolutionary Guards" and the local Shi'ites. She also said "the Lebanese Shi'ite community is more Lebanese than it is ideologically influenced by Tehran," although there are ongoing debates within the Beirut community on "how close their links should be."

Israel is viewed as "the greater of two evils" when assessing the occupations of both Israel and Syria, according to Ms. Cobban. She said the Shi'ites "have been trying to use the Syrian connection to help combat the Israeli presence." She added that, "of course, the Syrians have their own interest in this whole business."

Ms. Cobban contended that the U.S. can have a direct and indirect influence on events in Lebanon, particularly with the Shi'ites.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

17:00 Koran
17:10 Cartoons
17:30 Children's Programmes
18:00 That's Incredible
19:00 Local Health and Life Programme
19:25 Programmes Review
19:40 News Programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:40 Arabic Series
21:40 Tomorrow's Programmes
21:50 Local Programme
22:10 Varieties
22:30 News in Arabic

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 Michel Sargou — Vivant
19:00 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Insight
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Don't Wait Up
21:10 Crime Inc. — Eps. 1
22:00 News in English
22:30 Remington Steele

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 95.60 KHz. SW

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
09:00 Morning Show
10:00 Pop Session
10:30 News Summary
11:00 News Summary
11:30 News Summary
12:00 News Summary
12:30 News Summary
13:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instrumentals
14:30 Science Report
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:30 Instrumentals
16:50 Old Favorites
17:00 Listeners' Choice
18:00 News Summary
18:30 Jazz Hour
19:00 Newsdesk
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:30 News Summary
22:00 Evening Show
22:30 News Summary
23:00 Evening Show
24:00 News Headlines

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 On Out On The Floor 06:30 On Out On The Floor 06:45 Financial Review 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:05 24 Hours: News Summary 07:30 Good Books 07:45 Letter from America 08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Jazz for the Asking 09:00 World News 09:05 24 Hours: News Summary 09:30 From Our Own Correspondent 09:50 Letter from London 10:00 10:00 World News 10:05 Reflections 10:15 The Pleasure's Yours 11:00 World News 11:05 British Press Review 11:15 Sports Review 11:45 My Country Is Mine 12:00 News Summary: Short Story 12:15 Classical Record Review 12:30 Religious Service 13:00 News: News 13:05 News About Britain 13:15 From Our Own Correspondent 13:30 Baker's Half Dozen 14:00 News Summary: Play of the Week 15:00 World News 15:05 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30 The Hitch-Hiker 15:45 The Sandi Jones Request Show 16:30 Classical Series 16:45 News and Daughters 17:00 Radio Newsdesk 17:15 18:00 World News 18:05 Commentary 18:45 Letter from America 19:00 World News 19:05 Meridian 19:40 Reflections 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsdesk 20:30 Mainstream 21:10 News Summary 21:15 In The Psychiatrist's Chair 22:00 World News 22:05 24 Hours: News Summary 22:30 Sunday Half-Hour 23:00 News Summary 23:15 The Pleasure's Yours 23:30 World News 23:35 Talk 00:25 Words 00:30 Features 00:40 Reflections 00:45 Sports Round-up 01:00 World News 01:05 Commentary 01:15 Letter from America 01:30 Photo to Nato

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260, TH 7200, 8565, 11740, 11925 & 15210

06:00 VOA Morning: News, Informal Presentation of Popular Music with Feature Reports, Interviews, Answers to Listeners' Questions, Science Digest, Sports News at 30 minutes past the hour. 08:15 Focus 17:00 News 17:10 News Horizons and New Products 17:30 Music USA 18:00 News 18:10 International Viewpoints 18:30 Special English News and Features 19:00 News 19:10 Critic's Choice 19:30 Issues in the News 20:00 News 20:10 Focus 20:30 Special English News and Features 21:00 News 21:10 Sunday Report 21:30 News 21:40 News and Editorial 22:15 Concert Hour 22:30 News 22:40 News Horizons and New Products 23:30 Studio One

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITION

* An exhibition of paintings on silk by Arab artists is at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Jan. 31).

PLAY

* A local play (The Choice) at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Jan. 30).

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267
American Centre 43371
American Cultural Library 41520
British Council 36147-8
French Cultural Centre 37000
Goethe Institute 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre 39777
Hays Arts Centre 665195
Humein Youth City 667181
Y.W.C.A. 41793
Y.W.M.A. 664251
Amman Municipal Library 36111
University of Jordan Library 443555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qai'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal Luvabdeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.
Museum of Military Memorabilia: Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

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Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.

SERVICE CLUBS

Leas Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.
Jabal Amman Club. Meetings every second - 4 fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2:00 p.m.
Jabal Amman Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.
Tel. 815261.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, tel. 24590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luvabdeh, 37440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, 661757.
Church of the Ascension (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 21541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, 25383.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 771751.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 771751.
Assam International Church (Inter-denominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, 815334.

PRAYER TIMES

06:58 Fajr
06:24 (Sunrise) Duha
11:59 Dhuhr
14:54 'Asr
17:17 Maghrib
18:43 Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alta Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (08) 33250, 33070, 33082, 33171, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

09:30 Agaba (RJ)
09:45 Cairo (RJ)
09:45 Kuwait (RJ)
09:45 Jeddah (RJ)
09:45 Beirut (RJ)
10:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:00 Tripoli, Larnaca (LN)
10:00 Kuwait (RJ)
10:00 Cairo, Agaba (RJ)
10:00 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)

17:40 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:55 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)
18:00 London (RJ)
18:00 Paris, Rome (RJ)
18:00 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
19:25 Beirut (MEA)
20:40 London (BA)
22:00 Baghdad (IA)
22:20 Cairo (MS)
01:10 Baghdad (RJ)

DEPARTURES

06:50 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
07:00 Beirut (RJ)
07:15 Agaba (RJ)
08:00 Damascus, Paris (AF)
08:45 Beirut (MEA)
09:00 Damascus, Rome (AZ)
10:00 Agaba, Cairo (RJ)
10:00 Vienna, New York (RJ)
11:45 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:15 Riyadh, Dhahran (SV)
12:30 Larnaca, Tripoli (LN)
12:30 Larnaca, Larnaca (RJ)
13:30 Damascus, Larnaca (RJ)
13:30 Kuwait (RJ)
13:30 Kuwait (RJ)
13:30 Dhahran (RJ)
14:00 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
14:00 Qatari riyal 111.8/ 112.5
14:00 Saudi riyal 114/ 114.5
14:00 Saudi riyal 45.1/ 45.3
14:00 Swiss franc 153/ 153.9
14:00 Syrian lira 34.2/ 35.4
14:00 UAE dirham 111/ 111.8
14:00 U.S. dollar 450.7/ 453.4
14:00 U.S. dollar 407.5/ 409.5
14:00 W. German mark 128.4/ 129.2

MARITIME TRAFFIC

Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port:

— Roudas
— N.J. Peters
— Bashon
— Jeddah Crown
— Kirkuk
— El Tor
— Al Abram
— Roudas
— Nipetars

Amn Kaver and Sons Company, Tel. 22324 (six lines) your service.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Clouds will appear at different altitudes, with southeasterly moderate winds. In Agaba, it will be dusty, with northerly moderate winds and calm seas.

Low/high temperature in deg. C:
Amman 41.5
Agaba 112.4
Dorsetis 216
Jordan Valley 1222

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 16, Agaba 24. Humidity readings: Amman 46 per cent, Agaba 23 per cent.

MONEY EXCHANGE

Local sell/buy rates in Jds
Belgian franc 64.5/ 64.9
Dutch guilder 114.2/ 114.9
Egyptian pound 306/ 309.6
French franc 42/ 42.3
Iraqi dinar 333.6/ 341
Italian lire (for 100) 20.9/ 21.1
Japanese yen (for 100) 160.2/ 161.1
Kuwaiti dinar 1331.6/ 1338.3
Lebanese lira 36.6/ 37.9
Omani riyal 1173.3/ 1181.6
Qatari riyal 111.8/ 112.5
Saudi riyal 114/ 114.5

NEWS IN BRIEF

Royal Decree approves budget

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Saturday approving the budget for 1985 which amounts to JD 811,222,000 with a deficit estimated at JD 16,735,000. The budget was approved last week by both the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament.

Madi appointed ambassador to Italy

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Saturday approving a cabinet decision to appoint Mr. Tareq Madi as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Italy. Mr. Madi was previously serving as director of the protocol department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Hussein condoles Sirhan tribe

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein deputised Royal Court Assistant Chief of Protocol Sheikh Bernis Al Zaben to convey the King's condolences to the Sirhan tribe on the death of the late Sheikh Ghasab Smerat.

Hassan condoles Al Qadi family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan paid a visit Saturday to the Al Qadi family and extended his condolences on the death of the late retired Major-General Ghasab Sa'oud Al Qadi.

Obeidat receives Qasem, Salah

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat Saturday received Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem and Jordan's permanent representative to the United Nations Abdullah Salah during two separate meetings.

Consumer shops to open bimonthly

AMMAN (Petra) — Beneficiaries of the Civil Service Consumer Corporation shops can now buy goods twice a month instead of once, according to the director of administration at the corporation, Mr. Jameel Farahneh. He said that the project will start on an experimental basis at the beginning of February with two shopping periods in the month.

Women's club prepares action plan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Club for Business and Professional Women's Advisory Services Office has drawn up a plan of action for next year. Director of the office, Mrs. Buthaina Jiraneh, said that the programme aims to make the community more aware of women's role and the services rendered by the office. The programme will focus on women's rights and duties in Islam, Jordanian legislation and legal provisions for women.

No bilharzia in Al Hasa area, health official says

KARAK (Petra) — Director of the Bilharzia and Malaria Office, Karak Governorate, Mr. Khalaf Al Humeimat, has affirmed that the waters of Al Hasa stream in Ghor Al Safi are now completely free of bilharzia snails which are now restricted to Al Berheia area. He said that all the bilharzia cases which occurred in Ghor Al Safi area were among incoming workers and that none of the area's citizens were affected by bilharzia.

Research and investigation studies are being carried out in the estuary of Al Hasa stream to ensure that its water is free from snails, he added. Mr. Humeimat said that the office is conducting a comprehensive survey of the workers in the Ghor Al Safi area to make sure that they are free from this disease and that samples are being taken from citizens who feel symptoms of this disease. He said that number of bilharzia cases has so far reached 15, and all of these have been cured and the Berheia stream area has been sprayed with insecticides.

Posters have been placed on the roads leading to the area warning people not to bathe, swim or wash in this water to avoid bilharzia, according to Mr. Al Humeimat. He also called on all citizens who visited the Berheia area during the past two years to have themselves tested at the office or any other place to make sure that they are free from bilharzia.

Family Care Society attempts to get children off the streets

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — According to Aida Ibrahim, a social worker at a welfare society which concentrates its activities in Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan, there are many ways through which young people can help improve the lives of children and improve the status of what she calls "the future family."

"When you deal with children, you are systematically dealing with the future... the roots, because what we will have in the future is the result of what we make now," remarks Aida. Aida is a 22-year-old volunteer at the Family Care Society, which helps children in five refugee camps accommodating nearly one million people.

Aida and a number of her colleagues are planning a major fund raising campaign to initiate an ambitious project to be implemented throughout the International Youth Year. "What we are planning to do is eliminate as much as we can of the phenomenon of child abuse by improving the plight of kids who are forced to work in order to support their poor families," Aida said. "We will try to get these kids off the streets and back to school — where they belong."

Aida is referring to street vendors, kids seen everywhere in the streets of Amman trying to sell a vast array of cheap goods — from clothes to cassettes, wristwatches, and candy. There they clamour for buyers and in the process get harassed by shopkeepers, customers, and occasionally by the police. Shopkeepers don't like seeing the

kids selling their cheap goods in front of their shops — and there are often clashes between the two.

Nor do the police make it any easier for the kids when they decide it's necessary to remove them from the streets in order to reduce congestion on the sidewalks. (According to Aida, the police often "overdo it" in their enforcement of the law.) The problem is that there is nobody to offer the youngsters any alternatives.

The young street vendors have two reasons for remaining in the streets despite the harassment, and the heat of the summer sun and the cold of winter. First, business is good and they are saving some money. Second, they have to bring money home or else in turn be harassed by their parents — yet, another form of child abuse.

Kamal Bdeir is one of those young street vendors who will probably be included in Aida's project. He is 13-years-old, about five feet four inches tall, with wide brown eyes and a boyish grin. Kamal can always be found in the same spot in King Talal Street, in downtown Amman, with a box of candy in front of him that he hawks to customers. He is illiterate, but his intelligence is evident in his approach to customers.

Every street vendor has his own way of handling potential customers, Kamal explains. "Some will notice someone's interest in a certain item, so they approach and ask if they need anything. The more passive type may wait until the potential customer shows a real interest. And there is also the over-industrious kind, the one that keeps calling on everyone who passes by."

Although Kamal seems happy about what he does he confesses that when he passes by a school on his walk to the downtown area and meets cheerful boys coming to their classes, he feels jealous. "I feel a little pain for myself when I see them, but I also know I cannot go to school because I don't have time for it," he says. "What I envy is their bright blue and white uniforms. I have only three shorts, two shirts and a pair of shoes. I

bought them all from the used articles market."

Kamal is a refugee in the Baq'aa camp located about 20 kilometres north of Amman, just off and to the east of the Amman-Irbid road.

He lives with thousands of children his age in a camp which accommodates about 63,500 refugees and displaced people who were forced to migrate from the West Bank of the Jordan River as a result of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. Services in these camps are inadequate and families are often forced to live in cramped conditions due to restricted space.

For Kamal, the day starts at six when he wakes up to catch the first bus from Baq'aa to Amman, carrying his box of candy. "Sometimes people buy from me because they feel sorry for me," he explains. "Some of them buy because they are nice and some are so nice they want to give me money without taking a candy, but I refuse and insist that they take one."

"With the money I save sometimes I am able to go to the movies. I like the films and I dream sometimes that I am the film hero, fighting everything coming his way, meeting a rich man's daughter, falling in love and marrying her, and then inheriting her father's business. I also have to save money for the bad days in winter when it rains and I cannot go out to work. I need to save some money because I want to buy some land and become a farmer. It is my ambition to work my own land."

Kamal says he felt somewhat lonely at first. "But now I have overcome these feelings. I have to work hard searching for customers, and I stop working when my bones start aching."

When asked whether he would go back to school if he had the chance, Kamal pauses for a moment, looking a bit puzzled and says: "You ask too many questions. Why should you care?"

order to generate some extra income for their families (J.T. file photo)

A group of young boys gathers on the pavement on the outskirts of a refugee camp. Some of these young boys become street vendors selling cheap goods in

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ENVOYS PRESENT CREDENTIALS: Minister of Foreign Affairs Taher Al Maerri (left) Saturday receives the credentials of the envoys of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of Indonesia. Dr. Zainal Yami (right) presented his credentials as Indonesian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Royal Court.

Japanese volunteers to assist in Jordan's development activities

By P.V. Vivekanand
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan and Japan have concluded an agreement under which young Japanese volunteers will be assigned to Jordan to help in the Kingdom's development activities in various fields.

The agreement, signed last week by Minister of Planning Abdullah Nsour on behalf of Jordan and the Japanese ambassador to Jordan, Akira Nakayama, for Japan, comes under services offered by the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) programme.

The Japanese government will bear the cost of the volunteers' air passage and living expenses, in addition to a nominal salary, while the Jordanian government will provide free accommodation, health services and other necessary facilities.

Yarmouk University, the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) and the Ministry of Youth are expected to be the immediate beneficiaries of this agreement. A senior official of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is expected to arrive in Amman Sunday to study requests made by Yarmouk University for Japanese volunteers in various fields such as television and visual equipment technology, computer science, telecommunications and sports.

The JEA has requested two volunteers in the field of operations and maintenance of transformer stations while the Ministry of Youth has asked for volunteers for training Jordanian youths in volleyball and gymnastics, according to a spokesman from the Japanese embassy in Amman.

"By no means the term 'volunteers' imply that the people coming here would be amateurs,"

says Yushi Kitahara, the first secretary at the Japanese embassy. "In fact they will be quite far from amateurs," especially that they will be given intensive training in their respective fields before being assigned overseas.

More than 5,000 such "junior experts" have been sent overseas under the JOCV programme since its inception in 1965 and Jordan would be the 36th country to avail of the programme. Mr. Kitahara said, it offers volunteers in agriculture, forestry and fishery, manufacturing and industry, maintenance and operation of machinery, civil engineering and architecture, health and social welfare, administration and information services, education and culture and sports. The normal duration of volunteers' stay in the assigned country is two years unless otherwise specified by the host government.

All the volunteers are carefully screened and selected and given intensive training in their respective fields and undergo an orientation course on the country they would be assigned to work in. Mr. Kitahara said, "Normally this process takes over 3½ months."

Asked whether volunteers face language barriers in their field of

work, he replied that it is part of the orientation course that they are given "basic knowledge of the language of the country they are supposed to work in."

Mr. Kitahara expects the first batch of volunteers to arrive in Jordan early next year. "One may wonder why it takes so long, but it is our policy that strong emphasis is given on the technical qualifications of the volunteers, and therefore it is a long process before volunteers are ready to take up their assignments."

He also emphasised that all volunteers will be in the age group of 20 to 30 years and "therefore, it is relatively easier for them to adapt to new environments."

Mr. Kitahara finds "a lot of scope for Jordan to avail of the JOCV programme, because Japan is quite advanced in most fields of development that Jordan is interested and active in."

He also referred to technical cooperation between Jordan and Japan and said over 150 Jordanian personnel have undergone training in various fields of specialisation in the Far Eastern country. However, the latest agreement is outside the framework of the technical cooperation accord between the two countries, he added.

Information team starts aerial survey of Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — A technical team from the department of training and development information at the Ministry of Information Saturday started a full scale project to photograph Jordan from the air.

The project aims to record on video tapes population, economic, social, construction, natural and environmental aspects of Jordan.

The tapes will be used in television programmes as part of the development information in support of population activities project which is being executed between the Ministry of Information, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

Dr. Bashairah told the Jordan Times that he expects the final results of the tawjihi examinations to be "good", especially that the standard of examination questions were set bearing in mind the "average students" of the scientific, literary, nursing, agriculture, industrial, postal study, commercial, hotel management and special programme streams.

He added that the general atmosphere was relaxing, especially since the tawjihi candidates had enough time to go over the scheduled material for the first tawjihi session and that the weather conditions were appropriate and helped the students to relax.

Concerning the standard of questions for all streams, he said that the committee responsible for setting the questions have in mind the categories of students who are either excellent students, average, good and below average. However, the tawjihi exam aims to organise a comprehensive system which can distinguish between these three categories of students, Dr. Bashairah added.

Dr. Bashairah pointed out that all the questions set were from within the general context of the academic books used in all nine streams of the tawjihi certificate. "Students who did not revise the material carefully will accuse that the standard of questions was difficult," he said.

He said that all the negative and positive remarks concerning the questions are submitted daily to the directorate of examinations, which in turn sends them to specialised committees, who send the directory their remarks, and if something goes wrong we tackle the solutions immediately.

Dr. Bashairah said: "Until now, there has been no single question that came from outside the academic material in all the tawjihi streams and no question was not clearly asked or identified. He said: "If students complain that the examination was difficult or unfair, I reply that this is not a valid accusation of the tawjihi examination questions."

Dr. Bashairah commented on the mathematics and physics questions concerning the scientific and literary streams saying that what actually happened was that some of the students sitting for these subjects finished answering

Team to discuss Arab views on Middle East issues

Arab League delegation to pursue dialogue with EC

TUNIS (Petra) — An Arab League delegation will try to bridge the gap between Arabs and the European Community on stands regarding the Palestinian cause, the Iran-Iraq conflict and the Lebanese crisis, according to Jordan's permanent representative to the Arab League Nabih Al Nimmer.

Mr. Nimmer, who is also Jordan's ambassador to Tunisia, will head an Arab League delegation to the seventh tripartite committee of Arab-EC dialogue to be held in Rome on Feb. 7.

He told Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that the Rome meeting will continue discussions of topics which were on the agenda of the committee's sixth meeting in Tunis last November.



The drama ends here

BENEATH the verdict of the jury in the Sharon vs. Time libel case, there lay the essential question of what "Arik" wanted to achieve from his lawsuit. That is not a question for us to address, although it may be important for the Middle East at some point. Our concern for now is that the Israeli minister has contested with a Time reporter, fellow Israeli David Halevy, a case of whose sources are more reliable.

On this particular point, Sharon won. The so-called "discussion" between the general and the Gemayel family that was referred to in the disputed Time article was not in the end to be found in "Appendix B". It could have been in an Appendix A or C, and most probably Sharon had realised this better than Halevy or Time itself.

Time, being the powerful magazine it is, did not for a moment conceal its belief that Halevy was basically correct in his reporting. The reporter's sources were genuine, Time believed, and if the reference to the discussion was not in "Appendix B", then elsewhere, but it was there. Sharon did not contest that — just the part about the reference tucked in the secret part of the Kahane Commission's report.

Who has won, Time or Sharon, on this score, is as trivial as Sharon's claim of winning the whole case. Time won the war, as its chief lawyer Thomas Barr put it. "Who wins (a) battle is not particularly important. The war is over and we won."

The lawsuit might be more fitting to be taught in a journalism classroom than in history lecture halls, we think. Even if Sharon won it outright, his victory would have never absolved him of his role in the massacres of Sabra and Shatila. That is for sure.

Granted, the lesson is for Time and journalists all over world to learn from. But it is also for Israel and the Israelis to know that their man is not a hero if he just wins them needless and costly battles here or in courtrooms in the U.S. So much for Sharon and his libel case.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Summit vs. increased aid

*PRESIDENT REAGAN has commenced his second-term in office with a call to Congress to grant Israel \$1.9 billion in military aid for 1986: an increase of \$500 million over the 1985 aid. This announcement should be enough for the Arabs to understand Washington's policy for the coming four years. This is also enough for those who are still optimistic that the U.S. might one day adopt a balanced stand with regard to the Middle East conflict.

Mr. Reagan's gesture reflects the real dimensions of the connivance between Washington and Tel Aviv against the Arab Nation and should make it clear for all that the U.S. is a true enemy of the Arab Nation. For the Arabs to work out a clear concept for future action, they have to meet at summit level where they can make an appraisal of the situation and define responsibilities of every Arab country towards the dangers threatening the nation.

Further delay in holding the summit is bound to prolong the current deadlock and will offer more opportunities for the Americans and the Israelis to pursue their collusion and hatch conspiracies against the Arab Nation.

Al Dustour: New hostile U.S. gesture

ON THE eve of Israeli war minister Yitzhak Rabin's visit to Washington and other visits by leaders from the Middle East, President Reagan declared he was proposing to Congress to increase U.S. military aid to Israel. The announcement came as many Arab leaders were under the impression that Mr. Reagan might introduce amendments to his Middle East policies now that he has secured another four-year term at the White House.

The American administration realises that Israel possesses military power far exceeding that of all the Arab countries put together, and still pursues a policy of complete bias towards Israel with total disregard of the Arabs. The Arabs for their part still believe that Washington might adopt a more balanced attitude towards the Middle East problem and are optimistic that the White House might exercise pressure on the Zionists. In fact with its strategic alliance agreement with Israel and due to the impulsive attitude of the Arabs towards the United States, Washington does not give any regard to the Arab countries, which so far have failed to take any decision to reconsider their ties with the United States, which support their enemy.

We look on the White House's announcement of increased military aid to Israel as a renewal of U.S. hostile policies towards the Arabs, whose divisions and disputes continue to encourage their enemies to hatch plots against them.

Sawt Al Shaab: Why fear Israel's withdrawal?

IT IS indeed ironic to hear about fears of some Arabs and Lebanese regarding an Israeli withdrawal from South Lebanon when the Lebanese resistance continues its struggle to drive away the invaders from Lebanon. Some Arabs believe that once the Israelis have been withdrawn, the South Lebanese area will be open for disturbances, as if the Israelis had been keeping peace and order in the occupied territory.

Forced to evacuate South Lebanon, Israel was sure to work out schemes for causing trouble and also pave the way for new massacres in the refugee camps. The Arabs should expect that and should work towards aborting Israeli plans and designs.

The Arab countries can do that by trying to back and strengthen the legitimate government in Beirut, which has proved capable of handling difficult situations in the past. Though the government's measures have been slow, yet they are steady. Now the situation requires more help for the Beirut government as matters are more complicated and are made even more so by Israeli conspiracies.

The Arabs, who saw that neither the U.N. forces nor the Syrian troops were capable of maintaining peace, should help the Beirut government to deploy the army and secure sovereignty over all Lebanese territory.

New economic policies emerged in 1984

By Fahed Fanek

AFTER THE completion of the first year under the new government, it is becoming possible to identify and analyse the economic policies and doctrines practised in Jordan.

The first declared by the prime minister was the principle of continuity. This government, he told parliament last year, is not coming from a vacuum: it is an extension of the previous governments and will be the base for future governments.

Continuity, as practised in 1984, turned out to be not defending any old or out-of-date policies or practices as was feared, but a mere starting point from where the previous government had left things. It means the protection of previous achievements and the

embarkation on new enterprising warranted by the prevailing circumstances and the futuristic perspective.

Continuity meant that there will be no condemnation of the past or undoing of things simply because they were done by others. This does not prevent responding to changing circumstances by changing policies. Thus the first trend that can be highlighted is that change and adjustment took place within the framework of continuity which is not an easy job.

The second trend that emerged in 1984 is the acknowledgement that there is a completely new set of circumstances in the local, regional and international arenas, the most prominent of which are: Economic recession after

prolonged prosperity, the decline of Arab financial aid to the treasury, and external borrowing becoming more difficult and costly.

Under this new economic and social environment, priorities have changed. A new process of adjustments has commenced.

The starting point was very difficult, but it was finally adopted and it is gaining momentum. The people were called upon to shoulder the responsibility, side by side with the government, and introduce a substantial change in the consumption behaviour, both public and private. A more balanced economy is a must if our horizon will extend to foresee the future.

Trade deficit remained an

accepted fact of life; however, the gap will not only cease to widen but will also be reduced. The method is stressing more exports in one hand and checking imports in the other.

The financial deficit also remained an accepted reality, resulting from Jordan's huge military obligations. Therefore, Arab financial support is a right on which Jordan will insist. Relying on domestic revenues is being enhanced. Tax-payers are feeling the pinch; nevertheless, they show more understanding and ability to take gradually on increasing part of the burden.

Large-scale projects, old and new, were not given alternative success and growth, or failure and death. Only one option was allowed, and that is to suc-

ceed, overcome difficulties and bottlenecks and proceed to carry out the role they were created to perform.

Monetary policies, which at one time were expansionary, became more conservative. Dealing with the balance-of-payment matters at ease, on the assumption that the foreign exchange will always be abundant, gave way to more awareness of the importance of defending the country's foreign-exchange reserves and protecting them from depletion.

Confronting economic recession, the government finds itself with two policy options. The first is easy: to expand public expenditure and money-supply which will create a false and temporary higher eco-

nomical activity. The second option is tough. It needs to strike a balance between the legitimate requirements to maintain an adequate level of economic activity in one hand, and at the same time undertaking the required adjustments which call for some sacrifices but create a healthier and sustainable economy on the other.

Fortunately, the government did not embark on the easy way. It did not concentrate on the present moment at the expense of the future. It opted for facing the people with their responsibility on the understanding that we have a future to care for, a future that can be built through sacrifices, responsibilities and serious productive efforts, not just boosting consumption and importation.

New pro-Zionist efforts wooing White House newcomers

By Wolf Blitzer

The writer is the Jerusalem Post's correspondent in Washington.

WITH THE start of this second Reagan administration, Israeli diplomats and their American political supporters in Washington find themselves scurrying to establish closer contacts with some of the new faces thrust into the limelight.

The most important policymakers are remaining — President Ronald Reagan, Vice President George Bush, Secretary of State George Shultz, Secretary of Defence Caspar Weinberger and National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane.

But there already have been some significant changes in personnel just below that level — bureaucratic changes which could have a direct impact on U.S. policy towards the Middle East, including Israel. In addition, there have been several significant changes in the Senate and House of Representatives.

How all of this will affect such critical matters as economic and military aid levels to Israel, sophisticated arms sales to "moderate" Arab states, back-up support for Israel's just-announced unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon, and new effort to revive the broader Arab-Israeli peace process still remains to be seen.

The departure of so many of the president's closest California political cronies from the White House staff in recent weeks has suggested to most observers that he will be more dependent on the thinking of his chief foreign policy advisers than ever before. This has certainly strengthened the hands of Mr. Shultz, Mr. Weinberger and Mr. McFarlane.

James Baker, who ably served as White House chief of staff during the first term, will become Secretary of the Treasury — switching jobs with an equally competent

Donald Reagan. As far as Israel is concerned, that exchange of positions is unlikely to have any immediate effect. Both men, according to political insiders, share roughly the same assessment of Israel and the Arab World.

Neither is by any means hostile towards Israel, although both have occasionally caused problems for it. At the Treasury, for instance, Mr. Reagan was often weary of Israel's ongoing efforts to win large-scale U.S. economic aid increases at a time of domestic U.S. budgetary concerns. This, by the way, has been a traditional and even understandable posture taken by virtually all Treasury secretaries over the years. It seems to come with the territory. Their main worry is over budget deficits. But Mr. Baker, while of course sensitive to domestic politics, was not exactly known in the White House as one of Israel's most outspoken supporters either. Thus, he can be expected to follow the tradition of the Treasury department.

Another senior White House aide, and long-time Reagan associate, Michael Deaver, is leaving the government, largely in order to make more money in a private public relations firm. Influence peddling in Washington has become a lucrative business in recent years. His \$75,000 a year White House salary is now likely to nearly quadruple.

Israeli officials and American Jewish leaders, for the most part, did not succeed in establishing much of a personal relationship with Mr. Deaver over the past four years, although he was without doubt one of the most influential people in the administration. The same was unfortunately true with William Clark, who is returning to California after having served for four years as deputy secretary of state under Alexander Haig, national security adviser and finally as secretary of the interior.

A much greater loss for Israel

involves the nomination of Ed Meese as attorney-general. Mr. Meese, as White House counsel, was extremely sensitive to the domestic political clout of American Jewry. He first worked closely with the Jewish community during the 1980 presidential campaign. He usually joined former national security adviser Richard Allen on speaking tours before Jewish audiences. Later in the White House, he often acted as a crucial foreign policy decision-making involving Israel and the Middle East. His loss, assuming his appointment to head the Justice Department is confirmed by the Senate, will be felt.

Another such loss will be U.N. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick, who already has announced her intention to leave the government. There is still some possibility that she will take another position in the White House — a development that would be warmly welcomed by Israel and its supporters.

According to administration officials, veteran State Department ambassador-at-large Vernon Walters is the leading candidate to replace Mr. Kirkpatrick at the U.N. Given his personality and background, he would be unlikely to be as fierce a supporter of Israel in the U.N. as Mr. Kirkpatrick has been. Then again, his appointment would by no means signal a return to the gloomy days for Israel of Andrew Young and Donald McHenry, who served as former President Jimmy Carter's U.N. envoys.

There will also be a new U.S. ambassador to Israel. And recently, Mr. Reagan endorsed Mr. Shultz's recommendation that Thomas Pickering, a career State Department diplomat who currently serves as ambassador to El Salvador, succeed Samuel Lewis.

It will take time for Pickering — a former Ambassador to Jordan in the mid-70s — to feel at ease in Israel and to fully grasp the most important issues and personalities

of the leaders.

It has been a few years since his mind focused on the Middle East and, as a result, he will not hit the ground running. But he can be expected to catch up relatively quickly.

At the start of this new session of Congress, the leadership changes on Capitol Hill also will be significant.

The new Senate majority leader, Republican Bob Dole of Kansas, has a strong record of support for Israel, going back over many years. He was especially well-liked by the Jewish community when he ran, unsuccessfully, with Gerald Ford in the 1976 presidential election.

More recently, however, Mr. Dole's position has become somewhat less clear, according to Israeli officials and American Jewish political lobbyists. He voted with the administration in 1981 in favour of the Saudi Awaq-F-15 enhancement package. He is known to have deeply resented Israeli and American Jewish opposition. This irritation was reflected in an occasionally critical address last year before the Policy Conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC).

As a result, the prevailing view is that Mr. Dole's replacement of Senator Howard Baker of Tennessee — who retired as majority leader — does not represent a significant gain.

The new chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Republican Richard Lugar of Indiana, however, does represent a net gain for Israel. He succeeded the defeated Charles Percy of Illinois. Mr. Lugar, an articulate and respected lawmaker, sees Israel as an important strategic asset for the United States in the region. But he is extremely loyal to the administration and will not necessarily always please Israel and its friends. Already, he has made clear his support for Mr. Shultz's decision to link economic aid increases to Israel to further austerity

measures aimed at restructuring the Israeli economy. Mr. Lugar is also in the forefront in pushing for a reduced U.S. federal budget deficit.

The defeat of Democratic representative Clarence Long of Maryland represented a real setback for Israel. As chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Mr. Long always pushed through increased aid packages for Israel.

His successor, Democrat David Obey of Wisconsin, is unlikely to be as aggressively pro-Israel. The ranking Republican on that crucial panel is Jack Kemp of New York, an outspoken and politically powerful supporter of Israel.

Israel also has been blessed with two strong friends on the parallel

Senate Foreign Operations Subcommittee — Republican Bob Kasten of Wisconsin, who is chairman, and Democrat Daniel Inouye of Hawaii, the ranking minority member. They recently visited Israel, and they can again be expected to take the lead in pushing for the economic and military aid packages for Israel.

In the end, however, the bottomline decisions made by Mr. Reagan, Mr. Shultz, Mr. Weinberger and company will have the most immediate impact on Israel. A string of Middle East visitors — beginning with Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Jan. 28 and followed by King Fahd of Saudi Arabia in February and President Mubarak of Egypt in March — will try to shape their views. For everyone concerned, the stakes are high — The Jerusalem Post.

LETTERS

'Cyprus has always been overwhelmingly Greek'

To the Editor:

WE WERE amazed and surprised by the striking inaccuracies contained in Mr. Musa Keilani's article "Cyprus: the star of the Arab Crescent" in your paper of Jan. 23.

To put things correctly, there has never been, in the first place, "an Arab character of Cyprus"; there were no Arab inhabitants at the late seventh century on it to be liberated, and hence they could not be "deported" for the sake of transplanting a new race.

On the contrary, there is irrefutable historical evidence that Cyprus was part of the ancient Greek world (Aphrodite of Paphos etc.) and remained overwhelmingly Greek through the centuries to this day. There were some short raids by the Arabs during the seventh and eighth centuries, but there has never been any significant colonisation of theirs on the island. The few Maronites originating from Lebanon make up less than one per cent of the total population and came much later.

Secondly, the Turkish community forms less than 20 per cent of the population, and not 28 per cent as Mr. Keilani asserts. On what principle of equality and justice can a 20 per cent minority insist on a 50/50 participation in the federation? Would that not amount to a flagrant injustice for the 80 per cent majority?

Thirdly, by mentioning only the alleged atrocities committed against Turkish farmers and their families, while passing under silence the internationally acknowledged atrocities of the invading Turkish troops in 1974, Mr. Keilani unfortunately proves his bias towards one side of the conflict.

We are afraid such publications run contrary to the spirit of friendship between Arabs and Greeks, and can do only harm to their good relations.

Georges Constant,
Ambassador of Greece,
Amman.

Who is against smiling?

To the Editor:

IT SEEMS that L.G. Cooper has completely missed Ms. Assaf's point in his letter to the editor (Jordan Times Jan. 24-25) regarding television newscasters.

Cooper is right when he/she says that we need some cheering up and that a touch of humour can help. However, I do not find it amusing at all to hear the newscaster in question saying he preferred car-racing after broadcasting an item on dog-racing. Furthermore, I see his comment here irrelevant, ill-humoured and too personal. No one is interested to know whether the newscaster prefers car-racing or chicken racing for that matter. I believe viewers would have found it amusing if he for example said: "It's a funny world... the dogs run and the owners get the prize money", or "the winner gets a nice and large chunk of meat."

Although I agree that newscasters can make mistakes, I do not think they should be so many. The newscaster in question was some time back reading the news of an airplane crash after a funny item without having to add an airplane crash after a funny item without having to add anything unnecessary which is what some newscasters are appropriately doing.

I dismiss as narrow-minded and selfish Mr. Cooper's suggestion that viewers switch off their television sets if they do not like the attitude of the newscaster, for he should realise first that to entertain themselves and see a proper news presentation.

So, my suggestion for JTV is to employ better-qualified newscasters, and there are many, rather than ask people to switch off their television sets.

Boukous Salamah,
Amman.



Cuba seeks savings, greater productivity

By Colin McSevery
Renter

HAVANA — Communist Party chiefs and works committees are holding urgent meetings throughout Cuba this month in response to a call from President Fidel Castro for immediate energy savings and greater industrial productivity.

"Now we must build factories the way we used to build schools," Dr. Castro said last month, stressing that Cuba must pay its way in a world which at the moment has little interest in sugar — traditionally Cuba's main export.

The bottom has fallen out of the sugar market because of a world glut, and Cuba has had to turn to other sources to earn hard currency for debt repayments and imports from the West.

Savings from imported Soviet oil offer the most immediate means of earning dollars, and the unprecedented flurry of national and provincial meetings has been called to hammer home the austerity message to bosses and workers alike.

Cuba imports almost all its oil — more than 10 million tonnes a year — from the Soviet Union, which allows its Caribbean ally to sell off any surplus on the spot market.

Re-exports of Soviet oil amounted to more than \$500 million in 1983 and official sources expect last year to show a similar total — around 40 per cent of Cuba's hard currency earnings.

Cuba's urgent need to raise output while cutting oil consumption to make even more dollars through re-exports was exp-

ressed by Dr. Castro in a series of New Year speeches.

"If we are not a thrifty nation, then we cannot call ourselves a truly revolutionary nation," he said, announcing a target of cuts in oil consumption this year of least 700 million tonnes.

A marked fall in traffic in the streets of Havana has been the most visible sign of the new austerity programme which slashed the petrol quota of most state firms.

Havana-based diplomats from West and East say it was no coincidence that the measures were announced shortly after Cuba and the Soviet Union signed a 15-year economic cooperation agreement.

"Moscow is putting the squeeze on Cuba as far as oil is concerned as it has done with all its other Communist allies," said one East

European diplomat.

No details of the agreement have been released, but diplomats say the Soviet Union told Cuba it could expect no increase in the amount of oil it has been receiving.

Apart from saving energy, Cuba also hopes to earn more hard currency through a 30-per cent rise in non-sugar exports such as citrus fruits, tobacco and nickel.

"Absolute priority must be given to those investments which save on hard-currency imports and increase hard-currency exports," Dr. Castro said, adding that he hoped at least 500 million dollars could be earned in exports to the West this year.

Total hard-currency exports last year are expected to have amounted to about \$1.3 billion, official sources say.

Lot of controversy over buying unconceived babies

Report by Sarah Helm, Rowena Webster and Roger Wilsner in London and Mark Hosenball in Washington. Research by Sara Walden

THE BUSINESS of "buying" a baby that is yet to be conceived, by paying a woman to be artificially inseminated, is fraught with potential pitfalls. What happens if the surrogate mother changes her mind and wants to abort the fetus, or, when the child is born, wants to keep it? What happens if the baby is born deformed, or turns out to be triplets, and the father changes his mind? How does he know that the child is really the product of his sperm and not the result of the surrogate mother's own sex life?

The contracts drawn up by the National Centre for Surrogate Parenting — which led to the controversial birth of Baby Cotton — are designed to meet all those contingencies, and more. The Sunday Times has obtained copies of two specimen agreements, one for the "potential parents", the other for surrogate mothers. They are masterpieces of cautious drafting.

The agreement signed by the would-be father, who provides the sperm and pays the bills, runs to 15 foolscap pages. It stipulates that he becomes legally responsible for the custody, care and support of the baby on conception, so long as a blood test immediately after birth "does not exclude the father from paternity".

He pays in advance: \$10,000 to the centre, and the same amount to the surrogate mother, though her money is held in escrow until he delivers. He also pays \$2,500 for the legal and medical fees, and promises to pay any additional expenses that might crop up.

If a baby (or babies) is born, in whatever condition, and the father refuses to accept it, he is "compelled" to support the child or "to pay all expenses relating to putting the child up for adoption, or public or private institutionalisation of said child".

The contract the surrogate mother signs is longer, 20 pages, because the "rules and regulations" to which she agrees are more demanding. She must submit herself for psychological examination before insemination. If she suffers a miscarriage, she does not get paid, though, if that is no fault of her own, she "shall have

the opportunity to participate in one further attempt". Even if the baby is stillborn, deformed or disabled, "the mother's agreement will have been fulfilled and she will receive her fee".

In addition to the contract, the surrogate mother, and her husband, have to sign a number of other documents. Among them is a "waiver of the right to abort said child". If she is advised on medical grounds to terminate the pregnancy, the father is entitled to call in his own doctor for a second opinion. If the two opinions disagree, "an independent third physician's opinion will be binding".

She and her husband must also sign what is called an abstinence clause, which reads in part: "We understand... that I abstain from any sexual intercourse for a period of at least two weeks prior to the initial artificial insemination, and that intercourse may not be resumed until the conception has been confirmed."

Finally, she agrees not to smoke or drink alcohol after insemination, and not to engage in "sexual promiscuity". The penalty for any breach of these conditions is severe: the surrogate mother, and her husband, agree to pay all expenses already incurred plus \$25,000 in damages.

All of which goes some way to explaining why Kenneth Clarke, the health minister, is determined to rush through legislation in "this" session of parliament, to ban commercial surrogate agencies. As he told The Sunday Times on Friday: "The involvement of commercial agencies is generally seen as extremely tasteless, and I personally object to the idea of a woman leasing out a womb."

The opposition parties agree, and the Warnock committee of inquiry, which reported last year, condemned surrogate outright, recommending criminal prosecution for commercial and non-commercial organisers — though it was doubtful that private arrangements could be effectively outlawed. It recommended that those arrangements should have no legal standing.

Mr. Clarke promises that when commercial agencies have been banned, the government will go on to consider the "wider issues". The birth of Baby Cotton may yet prove to be the catalyst for broader legislation preventing what church leaders described as "bringing a child into the world by

proxy". But surrogate motherhood is at least as old as the bible. Genesis, Chapter 30, says that when Rachel could "bare Jacob no children", she proposed her maid, Bilhah, as a substitute mother — though the insemination was not artificial. Bilhah gave Jacob two sons.

How widespread the practice is now is anybody's guess. Dr. Jack Glatt, a leading infertility specialist at Hammersmith hospital in London, says it has been going on in secret since time immemorial: "I wouldn't know whether it's five babies a year in this country or 500," he said. Perhaps some clue is provided by the number of AID births — where the husband is infertile, and the wife is artificially inseminated; in 1982, the last year for which figures are available, there were 1,009 reported AID pregnancies in Britain, which resulted in 820 live births.

What is certain is that there is a huge demand for children from childless couples. According to the National Association for the Childless, about 10 per cent of married couples in this country who want children cannot have them. And, because of an increase in cases of inflammatory pelvic infection — and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases — infertility is on the increase.

Most victims would opt for adoption, and at any one time 100,000 couples are looking for a baby, according to British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering. But most want "healthy white babies" and there are only about 1,200 available. Demand exceeds supply by a factor of 80. Indeed, since abortion was legalised in 1968, the total number of adoptions has fallen from 24,000 a year to less than 9,000 a year — and more than half of those are "step-adoptions", where one or other of the couple is already the child's natural parent.

The pattern is much the same in other developed countries where abortion, changing attitudes towards single-parent families, and improved contraception techniques, have drastically reduced the number of unwanted children — and increased the desperation of childless couples.

In America in 1981, 37-year-old Harriett Blankfeld was among the first to realise that surrogate motherhood could provide up to half of these couples (where it is the woman who is infertile), with a remedy — and provide Blau-

nkfeld herself with a lucrative business. She had just declared herself personally bankrupt, with creditors claiming \$494,000 after the failure of her "Mr. Wrecking" demolition company.

She established the National Centre for Surrogate Parenting Inc in a nondescript office in Bethesda, Maryland, just over the border from the District of Columbia. She told the Washington Post: "My goal is to have offices around the country and maybe in England, in the Middle East and Western Europe. I want to see this company become the Coca-Cola of the surrogate parenting industry."

Ms. Blankfeld's ambition to expand her service to Britain was fulfilled in May 1983, when she came to London to be interviewed for the Thames Television programme, TV Eye. Uta Quinlan, a former airline stewardess from Redhill, Surrey, read about her visit in a newspaper and went to see Ms. Blankfeld at the Hilton Hotel.

Ms. Quinlan had long had an interest in surrogacy after reading about it in a novel, and had included it in an essay as part of her training to qualify as a health visitor. After the Hilton meeting she agreed to follow up the inquiries that Ms. Blankfeld had received from British would-be surrogate mothers.

She was given a warning about how hostile some people might be to that decision when, in late 1983, she got a job as a health visitor with East Surrey health authority. Though she kept her surrogacy activities separate (and carried them out under her maiden name, Manning), the Mail on Sunday found out about her and, on Dec. 4, led the newspaper with a story headlined "Babies for sale". A week later, she resigned from the health authority.

Ms. Quinlan and Ms. Blankfeld did not learn from that experience. When, within four months, Kim Cotton — a 28-year-old housewife from Finchley — had signed up with the agency, and become pregnant through insemination, the story of "Britain's first commercial surrogate mother" was offered to Fleet Street newspapers by auction.

The Daily Star won, with a bid of £7,500, on the strict agreement that Cotton's identity would not be revealed. But the Daily Mail (the Mail on Sunday's sister paper) had "no difficulty in iden-

tifying her. It broke the news last September, and revealed that the baby would be born in Barnet, north London.

From then on, controversy was inevitable. As Vic Lyon, the chairman of Barnet's social services committee, said: "If Mrs. Cotton had not gone for publicity we may never have known. But here we had a mother who openly admitted she had no intention of caring for her baby, we had an agency that wasn't a recognised placement agency, and we had no idea who the prospective parents were likely to be. We had a statutory duty in such circumstances to step in."

Alan Gorst, the borough's social services director, was advised by the Home Office to wait until the child was born. The moment she was, at 7.26 p.m. on Jan. 4, Mr. Gorst went to the home of the local duty magistrate to get a "place of safety" order, preventing Baby Cotton's removal from the hospital.

The only way the child's father could then get the baby he had paid for was to apply for her to be made a ward of court, and trust that he would eventually be given custody. Last week, Mr. Justice Lately made the wardship order from his home in Rochampton.

Whatever his verdict, the likely consequence of all the publicity and wrangling is that Baby Cotton will be one of the last commercial surrogate babies born in Britain, though at least three other women signed up by Blankfeld's agency are already pregnant.

They are all due to collect £6,500, which is approximately what \$10,000 was worth when the contracts were signed. Blankfeld thinks that is not very much. In 1983 she told the Washington Post: "When you consider that the whole process takes anywhere from 18 months to two years, they're only making 78 cents an hour."

However distasteful this kind of attitude may be, many experts in infertility and in family law believe the rush to judgment on surrogacy is wrong and dangerous.

Robert Winston, reader in Infertility Studies at Hammersmith hospital, believes that non-commercial surrogacy should be permitted, and even provided on the National Health Service in cases of special need. "Infertility can be a devastating condition and of great concern to many people," he said.

Robert Johnson O.C., chairman of the Family Bar Association, says that the Warnock recommendation to make non-profit-making agencies liable for criminal prosecution is "wrong and totally unworkable."

Professor Michael Freeman, of University College London, an expert in family law, accuses the government of "moral panic". He says: "We have a government which is generally committed to liberty and freedom, and I would like to know on what grounds they would like to interfere with what looks like a perfectly good commercial contract which would probably end up with a child being cared for perfectly well." He says that critics are guilty of "sexist glorification of motherhood".

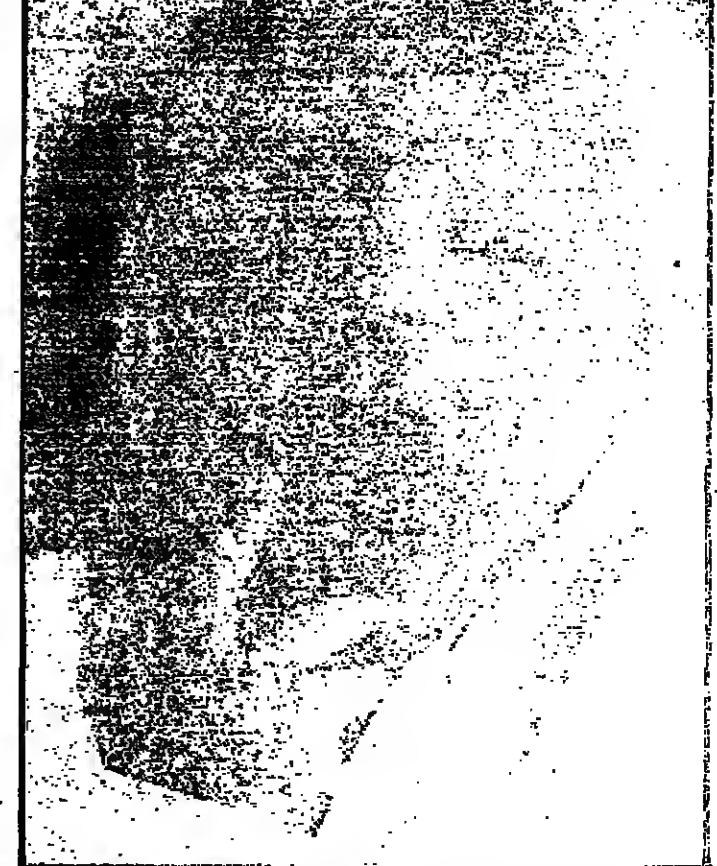
Dr. Wendy Greengross, a practising G.P. and one of the two dissenting members of the Warnock committee, is opposed to commercial surrogate agencies, but believes it is "very sad" that Mr. Warnock came out in favour of a total ban. "A large number of children have to live through very distressing circumstances, such as



Surrogate mother Kim Cotton and her husband, Geoff. Right (Above) Baby Cotton.

the divorce of parents. Who is to say that a child born of a surrogate mother to loving parents, under careful supervision, will necessarily suffer such serious difficulties?"

She claims that opinion on sur-



Surrogate mother Kim Cotton and her husband, Geoff. Right (Above) Baby Cotton.

rogacy within the committee was more divided than the final tally of votes suggested. "We were under a lot of pressure to report by the government deadline. There were some people who were unsure, and then when it came to the

crunch came out against."

The unsavoury aspect of the case of Baby Cotton might have made the verdict more certain. But is it right? — The Sunday Times.

Spain's gypsies still outsiders after 500 years of rejection

By Judith Matloff Reuser

MADRID — When gypsies first appeared in Spain some 500 years ago they were branded thieves and vagabonds — and Spaniards apparently still haven't changed their minds.

While many foreigners associate this wandering people with Spain's romance, flamenco music and folklore, the country's half a million gypsies still face hostility from people who believe they are shifters, robbers, fortune-tellers and con-men.

In the latest of almost monthly incidents, 35 young gypsies waited for hours in the bitter cold on Jan. 8 outside a primary school in a poor area of Madrid while a crowd of adults and children screaming "thieves go home" barred their entrance.

A social worker had arranged with education authorities for the six- to 12-year-old gypsies from a nearby shanty-town to attend the school while their own school underwent repairs. Police were called to escort them into the building.

The confrontation, condemned by top politicians and newspapers, underlined the limited impact of efforts by Spain's Socialist government to protect gypsies' rights. "The government can provide us schools, police protection and housing," said Enrique Maya, head of the Association for the Integration of Gypsies. "But it can't stop people bating us."

The gypsies' roots are a mystery, but most scholars believe they left India in the 11th century and travelled across Europe, meeting repression along the way. They crossed the Pyrenees into Spain in the 1400s.

Gone are the days in the 15th century when Spain's Catholic monarchs banned gypsies from the country. And laws mandating tough police surveillance of this nomadic people under the late dictator Francisco Franco were revoked after his death in 1975.

Many gypsies are now rooted in one spot, most have given up their horse-drawn carts and brightly-coloured garb and some attend university. There is even a gypsy member of parliament.

But the members of one of Europe's biggest gypsy communities remain second-class citizens in Spanish society — unemployed,

turned away from schools and unable to afford decent housing. Gypsy leaders estimate that some 75 per cent of gypsies are illiterate and that 70 per cent live in shanty towns with no electricity, running water or heat.

At least 60 per cent are without steady work, earning their living selling junk and lottery tickets, begging and performing flamenco dance and guitar. Andalusia's art form which developed with gypsy influence. Many have turned in despair to heroin.

"This racism resembles that which American blacks have suffered," said Javier Herrero, the non-gypsy lawyer of the Integration Association.

Agustin Silva, a leader of the El Orroyo Venalazada gypsy settlement in central Madrid, recounted complaints heard by Reuters in other gypsy squatter communities in Spain.

A 34-year-old father of five, Mr. Silva has been unemployed for several months. His children suffer gastro-intestinal problems and a sixth child died from lack of food and medicine.

Mr. Silva and others living in the slum of 300 decayed houses and shacks say the government has still not provided permanent and prefabricated housing promised more than five years ago.

"We're sick of living like animals," he said, gesturing at the open sewers and piles of garbage where some children dressed in rags were playing.

Cesar Royo, a priest who has worked for 20 years with gypsies in Zaragoza, said prejudice stemmed partly from the fact that gypsies held themselves apart, refusing to intermarry and clinging to their ancient tongue, Romany.

Residents of a Zaragoza housing estate rioted last year against plans to house gypsies nearby.

Brother Royo said there was some truth in the romantic view, depicted in Georges Bizet's opera "Carmen" and in the writings of Cervantes and Federico Garcia Lorca, of the free-spirited gypsy who scorns "payos" — non-gypsies.

"It is a vicious circle. What perhaps was self-defence in the face of persecution now has become a way of life and is fuelling even more resentment," he said.



CAVE: Scientists explore on passage of Actun Tun Kul, a newly discovered cave in the jungles of Belize. Thomas E. Miller led the team that found the huge system. He reports that the largest chamber is at least 213 feet high and 1,720 feet long. "It would swallow the biggest room at Carlsbad and still have a third left over," says Miller, whose expedition was supported by the National Geographic society. The cave holds many Maya artifacts.

'Normal' cholesterol level called dangerous by U.S. physicians

By Jane E. Brody

NEW YORK — In the most far-reaching public health recommendation yet made on cholesterol and heart disease, a panel has advised dietary and other treatment for many people whose cholesterol levels have until now been considered "normal" by many American physicians.

The panel said that average cholesterol levels among Americans were too high and contributed to the fact that half the population died of heart disease.

In the panel's report, released by the National Institutes of Health, elevated blood cholesterol was cited for the first time as a direct cause of heart disease, not just an associated "risk factor."

The experts set as a desirable cholesterol goal a blood level of less than 180 milligrams (0.063 ounces) for adults in their 20s and less than 200 milligrams for those aged 30 and older. Typical middle-age Americans have cholesterol readings of 220 to 260 milligrams.

The panel urged aggressive treatment for people 30 and older whose cholesterol levels are above 240 milligrams. In addition, the panel said that children with levels

above 185 milligrams and people in their 20s with cholesterol levels above 220 milligrams should be treated to lower those levels.

Many physicians now regard these levels as acceptable, primarily because they are commonly found in Americans. However, the panel said that a decrease of as much as 50 per cent in heart disease rates could be achieved in these people, whom they describe as at "high risk."

"We realised that doctors are not going to do much about cholesterol until they know what's high," said Dr. Daniel Steinberg of the University of California, San Diego, who was chairman of the panel.

"The same was true with high blood pressure," Dr. Steinberg said. By calling attention to what are now regarded as blood pressure levels that warrant treatment, public health experts succeeded in greatly reducing this hazard among millions of Americans.

The panel, whose members were chosen for their diverse expertise and lack of a prior strong public stand on the cholesterol issue, was convened by the health organisations to try to arrive at a consensus on what, if anything,

should be done about cholesterol in the general population.

For two days the panel considered a wide range of evidence and dissenting views from those who believe that changing diet is not necessary before it devised its aggressive recommendations. The panel called for an all-out national campaign to help people put its recommendations into effect.

The panel's report said a vast amount of evidence, from the laboratory and clinic as well as from studies of populations throughout the world, supported a conclusion that cholesterol was a cause of heart disease.

These studies indicate that high blood cholesterol results in an accumulation of fatty deposits in blood vessels, resulting in a narrowing of those vessels and an increased chance that the blood supply to the heart can be cut off, precipitating a heart attack.

The most recent study showed that reducing cholesterol levels in the blood could prevent deaths from heart disease, with every 1 per cent reduction in cholesterol lowering the coronary risk by two per cent.

— International Herald Tribune.

More shipowners nearing the rocks with decreasing demand

1984 was not a good year for the world shipping industry, and as capacity continues to overtake demand, 1985 does not look as if it is going to be any better. Andrew Fisher takes a bleak look at the prospects for world shipping.

LONDON — No-one in the shipping world thought 1985 was going to usher in a new golden era for the industry. But a couple of years or so back, many reckoned that an upswing in freight rates and earnings would have been under way now.

Instead, more and more companies are floundering. Awash with debt and with far more ships than are needed to carry cargoes on most routes, shipowners are wondering how they or their rivals will even survive.

This month saw the Zim company of Israel put the extent of its debts at more than \$500 million and state that it would ask its government, which has guaranteed \$110 million of its loans, for assistance.

Earlier in the month, Gazcocean of France agreed a new programme with shipping companies from which it had chartered vessels. Charters would be re-terminated or cancelled from Jan. 1, 1984, thus averting an estimated FF200 million (\$19.4 million) of losses for last year in gas shipping.

Late last year, both Saleninvest of Sweden, a major force in refrigerated cargo shipping, and Irish Shipping, a bulk carrier operator, collapsed. The repercussions have been felt right round the sensitive and jittery shipping world.

As a result, shipbrokers and bankers reckon 1985 is likely to be an especially testing year. "This could be the year of the sort-out," said Mr. Michael Robinson of the Hill Samuel merchant bank shipping division.

"Most market experts see no possibility of any recovery through 1985," said Mr. Alan Brainer, a senior executive of Midland Bank dealing with ship finance. "The short-term outlook is not at all encouraging."

Why not? Well, firstly, freight rates mostly showed so little movement from depressed levels last year and the year before that owners are unable to make proper returns on their investments.

But they still owe money to the banks and institutions which helped finance the ships in the first place. Banks have been prepared to nurse their clients through hard times, but those hard times have now lasted too long.

"There comes a time," added Mr. Brainer, "when you have to realise that it's not a curable disease but incurable and you have to cut it out." A number of companies, having stuck it out through 1983 and 1984, "will be hanging on by their fingernails to make it through 1985."

Another shipping banker, Mr. Michael Revell, director of shipping in London of Marine Midland Bank of the U.S., recently estimated that total shipping industry debt was over \$35 billion.

Since mid-1983, financial institutions had arrested or taken over at least 240 vessels "and are writing off, or making provisions for, some \$500 million". He cited Hong Kong, Greek, Canadian and Taiwanese companies as major shipowning names which had collapsed, or nearly done so.

He saw no reason why this year should not be as bad as last. Even a 15 per cent rise in freight rates would be "too little and too late for some". And while international trade was rising by only two per cent a year, the supply of vessels was going up by six or seven per cent.

A second key factor is that new ships are still being built, often at knock-down prices — mainly in the Far East — as yards and governments strive to keep shipbuilding in business and jobs in being.

The capacity surplus in the two long-standing problem areas of tankers and bulk carriers has come down as scrapping has increased. But as the latest company head-aches have shown, such highly specialised sectors as refrigerated cargo ships (reefers) and gas carriers are by no means immune to trouble.

When companies get locked into charters taken on when rates (and rate expectations) were higher than today, earnings are just eroded in the current climate. Irish Shipping was put into liquidation by its government owner rather than being allowed to spend the £36.5 million (\$57 million) on keeping its charters going with Far Eastern owners in the next few years.

Gazcocean took a different route. It asked Furness Withy, the U.K. company owned by the C.Y. Tung group of Hong Kong, and others from whom it had chartered ships, to cancel the charters, which had already been suspended since early 1984.

As part compensation, it has offered the companies shareholdings in Gazcocean. Furness, which would have some 22 per cent, has said it will accept. The rates on the ships the French company had chartered ranged from \$350,000 to \$600,000 a month. But they were earning only around \$200,000.

Many key freight rates showed no overall change in 1984, despite some upward flurries. In December 1983, the rate for grain from the U.S. Gulf to Japan was \$15 a ton. A year later, it was \$0 cents less. Coal shipments from Hampton Roads in the eastern U.S. stuck at \$12.50.

Major container routes also seem set for rate wars, as new and larger ships are delivered — notably to Evergreen of Taiwan and United States Lines for their round-the-world services — and the capacity surplus rises.

Hapag-Lloyd, the West German shipping group which has had its own troubles in recent years but is now through the worst, estimated that world container shipping capacity would soar from 1.3 million TEU (20-foot container units) to nearly 1.9 million TEU at end-1986.

Since there is already more container slot capacity than there is demand, some operators will clearly fall by the wayside in the next few years. For insolvency experts, the rest of the 1980s look promising. For many shipowners, they will be catastrophic. — Financial Times news feature.

Arsenal knocked out of English F.A. Cup

LONDON (R) — Third division York City pulled off a dramatic and unexpected victory when they knocked first division Arsenal out of the English Football Association (F.A.) Cup with a last-minute penalty Saturday.

Striker Keith Houchen was the hero of York's shock fourth round win when he was fouled by Arsenal's England midfielder Steve Williams, but recovered to score the winning goal from the penalty spot.

On a day of few other surprises for the top clubs, early goals by Trevor Steven and Gary Stevens ensured holders Everton of an easy win over third division Doncaster Rovers and a comfortable passage into the fifth round.

Last season's beaten finalists Watford came from behind to win their fourth round tie 3-1 at Grimsby while Nottingham Forest were held to a 0-0 draw by second division Wimbledon.

Everton, the first division leaders, beat Doncaster 2-0. Manchester United beat struggling Coventry City 2-1 and Southampton won 2-0 at second division Orient, who had disposed of West Bromwich Albion in the third round.

The top individual performances of the day came from Sheffield Wednesday striker Imre

Varadi, who scored a hat-trick in his team's 5-1 thrashing of second division Oldham, and Chelsea striker Kerry Dixon, on target four times in the 5-0 win at Wigan in a third round replay.

Dixon's goals took his tally for the season to 27 and consolidated his position as the leading scorer in English soccer in only his first season with Chelsea.

One of the bravest cup performances came from third division Gillingham who fought back from 2-0 down at Ipswich to draw level at 2-2 — after defender Mel Sage had scored an own goal for Ipswich and then one for his own team. But the first division team's teenage striker Jason Doozill scored a late winner.

Luther Blissett was the hero of Watford's win at Grimsby with two of his team's three second half goals after Steve Foley had given the second division team a half-time lead.

Manchester United's narrow win over Coventry included a penalty save by their reserve goalkeeper Steve Pears from Terry

Gibson after Mark Hughes, later carried off injured, and Paul McGrath had put United 2-0 up.

Gibson pulled a goal back for Coventry to revive memories of their victory in Manchester two weeks ago — when he scored twice — but he was not able to produce a repeat performance and United scraped through to a fifth round that will involve at least eight first division clubs.

Leicester and Luton, two clubs who have been threatened by relegation, both went through with home victories over second division opponents.

Leicester beat Carlisle 1-0 with a goal from their captain Bobby Smith while Luton won 2-0 against Huddersfield, with goals from Mal Donaghy and Brian Stein. Huddersfield were reduced to 10 men in the first half when full-back Brian Laws was sent off.

Southampton, cup winners in 1976 and semifinalists last season, produced a polished away performance to overcome Orient with goals from veteran Scottish striker Joe Jordan and former England under-21 forward Steve Moran.

York apart, the only team from outside the first division with a certain place in the last 16 were second division Barnsley who beat Brighton 2-1.



Becker stakes a claim to tennis stardom

MANNHEIM (DaD) — Boris Becker (photo above), a 17-year-old from Mannheim, Federal Republic of Germany, has staked a claim to tennis stardom with two sensational tournament wins already this year. He beat Stefan Edberg of the Swedish Davis Cup team in five sets to win the Under-21 Masters tournament in Birmingham, England. He didn't concede a single set until the final of the \$200,000 tournament and delighted the public.

USA. Last year Becker, who is 1.87m tall and weighs 80kg, twice showed talent. He did well at Wimbledon until an injury knocked him out, while in the Australian Open he reached the quarter-finals. "I want to be the No. 1 in tennis," he announced after his Birmingham win. He still has a long way to go, but his optimism is shared, for instance, by the Swedish sports reporter who wrote: "This victory is in all probability the start of something very big. Keep an eye on German tennis in future, especially on this young redhead."

Roehrl in pursuit of fourth Monte Carlo Rally crown

MONTE CARLO (R) — West German Walter Roehrl went in pursuit of his fourth successive victory in the Monte Carlo Rally Saturday, hoping his Audi would withstand the meteoric rise of the rival Peugeot team.

Roehrl and Swedish World Champion Stig Blomqvist, first and second in Audi Quattros last year, set out from the Bad Homburg starting point in West Germany while the three Peugeot contenders chose Paris in a heavily-depleted overall entry.

The rain poured in Monte Carlo as a local entrant with the nickname "Tchine" led a parade of 31 cars away from the Mediterranean principality where the rally ends next Friday.

Red-and-white Monaco flags adorned Casino square where a cream Rolls Royce added an extra note of opulence as minister of state Jean Herly waved off car number 9, a white Opel Manta driven by "Tchine" the identity chosen by the real-life Auguste Turani.

Prince Albert, son and heir of Prince Rainier, was among scores of Monaco residents who braved the rain to see off the 53rd Monte Carlo Rally — happy the event was on at all after the wrangling of the past four months.

A total of 117 cars, less than half last year's entry, headed out from "six" European towns — Monte Carlo, Paris, Bad Homburg, Barcelona, Lausanne and Sestriere in Italy — ensuring the 1985 rally was reality and not a casualty of crisis as in 1957 and 1974.

Just four weeks ago the Automobile Club of Monaco decided to cancel the race rather than continue arguing with their French counterparts who had demanded a one million franc (\$110,000) levy for use of French roads.

The Monaco organisers changed their minds a day later when the French said the race could be run under the same conditions as last year, but the long uncertainty has resulted in a smaller field.

The competitors converge at Saint-Etienne in southern France early Sunday where the 4,000-km rally starts in earnest with 34 special stages.

Attention is centred on what is expected to become a duel between the West German Audi's and the French Peugeot 205 Turbos, making their Monte debut.

Finland's Ari Vatanen, 1981 World Champion, achieved three wins for Peugeot when they made a spectacular entry into the World Championship late last season.

Fellow Finn Timo Salonen and Frenchman Bruno Saby completed the three-car assault against the rule of Roehrl, twice world champion and winner of the Monte in 1980, 1982, 1983 and 1984 — all in different makes of car.

Lancia — Roehrl's team in 1983 — opened their challenge from Sestriere with Finland's Henri Toivonen and Italian Massimo Biasion, hoping to improve on a disappointing 1984 showing.

Decker registers 3rd fastest mile ever

NEW YORK (R) — Double world champion Mary Decker responded to a hostile reception at the Millrose Games by running the third fastest women's indoor mile ever Friday night.

Decker, booted as she walked onto the track at Madison Square Garden, led from start to finish to beat Britain's Olympic 3,000 metres silver medalist Wendy Sly by nearly 10 seconds before revealing she was assaulted while on a training run last week.

Carl Lewis also found the crowd hard to please. They wanted to see the quadruple Olympic gold medalist set a world best in the long jump. But he, too, was jeered after declining to take his last two jumps because of injury.

His second effort, at 8.50 metres well short of a world mark, was enough to win the event comfortably.

Ironically, only a handful of people stayed late to witness the only record to fall during the games — a U.S. national mark of 2.34 metres set by Jimmy Howard in the high jump. But Howard, who won the competition, and Olympic silver medalist Patrick Sjöberg of Sweden both failed with three attempts to set a world best of 2.39 metres.

Decker, the darling of America before the Olympics, has fallen from grace since her collision with Britain's Zola Budd in the 3,000

metres final in Los Angeles. But the 1,500 and 3,000 metres gold medalist from the 1983 Helsinki World Championships silenced the audience with a powerful and confident display of front running to win in four minutes 22.01 seconds — less than two seconds outside her own indoor world best.

Afterwards Decker said she felt weak over the second part of the race following an incident in Eugene, Oregon, last Saturday when an attacker knocked her to the ground, asked her for money and said he was going to kill her. Decker was able to break away and run to a nearby car.

Ireland's Eammon Coghlan confirmed his return to top form by winning his sixth Millrose mile and his third consecutive race of the season.

Coghlan, kept out of the Olympics with a leg injury and holder of the world indoor best for the distance, clocked 3:53.82 to win easily from his compatriot Ray Flynn and New Zealander John Walker.

There was a surprise though for Olympic triple gold medalist Valerie Brisco-Hooks. She was beaten by fellow-American Diane Dixon over 400 metres in what probably would have been another U.S. record had the automatic timings not failed.

Budd wins 1st indoor race

VOLVERHAMPTON, England (R) — Zola Budd celebrated her first appearance on an indoor track with a victory over 1,500 metres in the British Indoor Championships Friday night.

After winning her heat in four minutes 21 seconds, the 18-year-old South African-born runner, who has pledged her athletics future to Britain, said: "It felt no different from running anywhere else. I felt comfortable all the way through."

Friday night's race was Budd's first in Britain since she set a world 2,000 metres best in London last

July, a month before her ill-fated clash with American Mary Decker in the Olympic 3,000 metres final.

Running barefoot on the hard, sloping track posed no problem for Budd as she won by 20 metres from Elise Lyon.

Britain's Ade Mafe, who won a silver medal at the World Indoor Games in Paris last weekend, and American Mel Lattany set up a repeat of last year's 200 metres clash in these championships when they successfully come through their respective heats and semifinals.

Navratilova into Florida semis

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (R) — Fourth seeded Hana Mandlikova of Czechoslovakia was upset by ninth seeded Catarina Lindqvist of Sweden 3-6, 7-5, 6-1, Friday in the quarterfinals of the Florida Women's Tennis Championships.

Top seeded Martina Navratilova and second seeded Chris Evert Lloyd avoided the upset bug, however. Navratilova of the U.S. overpowered fifth seeded Carling Bassett of Canada 6-2, 6-2 and Evert Lloyd of the U.S.

beat seventh seeded Bonnie Gadusek of the U.S. 6-2, 6-1.

Lindqvist used some sharp ground strokes to rally against Mandlikova.

"She was too powerful for me so I had to try and hit the ball deep," Lindqvist said.

That strategy paid off as she eventually forced Mandlikova into making a lot of errors.

"I think she let down," Lindqvist said. "She made so many unforced errors."

Connors reaches pro indoor last four

PHILADELPHIA (R) — Jimmy Connors' determination carried him into the semifinal of the \$300,000 U.S. Pro Indoor Tennis Championships here Friday night.

Connors' 6-4, 7-6 win enabled him to join top seed John McEnroe and unseeded pair American

Scott Davis and Miloslav Mecir of Czechoslovakia.

After a tight first set was taken by Connors, quarter-final opponent and compatriot Mel Purcell raised his level of play, using pinpoint forehands and his speed to hustle to a 4-0 second set lead.

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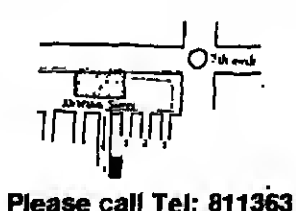
The following amendments may please be noted:

The last date for submission of the offers at ARC's office at Ma'an shall be 12.00 noon on 1.4.1985 instead of 16.3.1985. Other conditions remain unchanged.

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A spokesman said the prime minister had a prior engagement at an Australia day concert in a nearby theatre which could not be broken.

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Economy

Britain's visible trade deficit quadruples

LONDON (R) — Britain had its biggest deficit on visible trade for 10 years in 1984, despite huge earnings from North Sea oil, government figures showed Friday.

The department of trade and industry said imports of goods exceeded exports last year by £4.14 billion (\$4.6 billion), a deficit almost four times bigger than in 1983.

It was the largest deficit since 1974 when the shortfall stood at £5.4 billion (then \$12.6 billion). But in its overall dealings with the rest of the world, Britain showed a small surplus.

The current account balance of payments, which includes "invisible" like tourism, shipping, insurance and financial services, was in the black by £196 million (\$218 million) in 1984.

However, this was well below the 1983 surplus of £2.29 billion (\$3.22 billion) and was the worst performance since 1979.

Government sources said it was estimated that the 10-month-old coalminers' strike added some £2.75 billion (\$3.05 billion) to net

imports last year.

In December Britain registered a visible trade deficit of £207 million (\$230 million), and the current account was in surplus by £193 million (\$214 million).

Exports, aided by the weakness of sterling, hit a record for the second successive month at £6.7 billion (\$7.4 billion).

In 1984, the deficit in manufactured goods widened to £3.92 billion (\$4.35 billion). The country fell into deficit on its merchandise trade only in 1983 for the first time since the industrial revolution, department figures show.

Britain's oil surplus increased to £7.27 billion (\$8.06 billion) in 1984, despite a sharp rise in imports due to the miners' strike.

The yearly trade deficit was larger than foreign exchange markets had expected and caused further problems for sterling, already badly hit by weak oil prices. The pound closed in London at \$1.105, down from \$1.1183 Thursday night and equalling its record low finish here, after touching

USSR fails to improve agricultural output

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet agricultural production remained static from 1983 to 1984, despite a planned increase of 6.4 per cent, according to official figures published Friday.

Detailed statistics on the country's 1984 economic performance were published in the government newspaper Izvestia, but following the practice of recent years, the grain harvest figure was not included.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates the 1984 harvest at 170 million tonnes, some 70 million below the plan target.

In 1983, farm production was five per cent higher than the previous year, which was itself up four per cent in 1982.

Poor agricultural performance was the main factor behind overall

economic growth of only 2.6 per cent, short of the 3.1 per cent target.

Oil and coal production fell slightly below last year's levels, but industry performed better.

Output grew 4.2 per cent, better than the planned 3.8 per cent, while industrial labour productivity was up 3.8 per cent, compared with the target of 3.4 per cent.

In contrast, productivity in agriculture improved by only one per cent, against a target of 8.5 per cent.

Farm products in 1984 were worth 135 billion roubles, \$155 billion at the official Soviet exchange rate, the same figure as in 1983.

As in previous years, the commentary accompanying the figures

Imbalance in U.S. budget is worsening

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States government was running a budget deficit of \$72.43 billion in the first three months of the 1985 financial year, which began last October, the U.S. Treasury said Friday.

The government was nearly \$10 billion farther in the red than in the same period of fiscal 1984, when the deficit was \$63.32 billion, the treasury said in a monthly statement.

The White House will disclose deficit projections for this year and beyond when it submits its 1986 budget to Congress early next month.

Reagan administration sources say the imbalance in the government's books is worsening and the deficit could hit \$205 billion in 1985 and \$217 billion next year.

Those deficits exceed the existing record of \$195.35 billion registered in 1983. In the 1984 financial year, which ended September 30, 1984, there was a \$175.34 billion deficit.

Meanwhile, new orders received by makers of durable goods

in the United States fell 2.1 per cent in December but still posted a solid 14.9 per cent gain for all of 1984, the Commerce Department said Friday.

The department attributed most of the December dip, which followed an 8.3 per cent rise in November, to a steep drop in orders placed by the Pentagon for military equipment, which were unusually high in the previous month.

Excluding the defence category, new orders would have fallen only 0.3 per cent last month.

Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige said the December weakness in orders partly reflected the harmful effect that the strong dollar is having on American businesses.

"We must intensify efforts to cut budget deficits to reduce interest rates further and eventually lower the foreign exchange value of the dollar," he said in a statement.

The dollar's strength has made domestic goods more expensive than foreign goods so that more orders are being filled by imports.

Henkel enlightens detergent industry

By Sa'ad Hattar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A highly informative symposium on manufacturing detergents was held Saturday at Amman Marriott Hotel.

Organised by Henkel group, a leading manufacturer of detergents in West Germany, the symposium examined the best ways to use raw materials and to maximise output without polluting the environment.

Henkel experts explained the various aspects of the detergent industry and outlined guidelines to safeguard the environment from pollution. They also showed films and illustrations to this effect.

The experts focused on the benefit of oils and fats from animals as raw materials as well as the implementation of measures to extract these oils and fats from the by-products of the food industries relating to soya beans, tallow and coconuts.

The lecturers emphasised the need to boost land cultivation and plant protection as means to increase yield of oils and fats.

Mr. Hans-George Behnisch, the product manager of the Dehydag CD at the Oleochemicals Products Research, a division of Henkel specialising in upgrading means of producing raw materials for the techno-chemical and detergent industry, Dr. Amal Kane, technical delegate, marketing representative Mr. Peter Weber, research and development director Mr. Ingo Wegener and director of overseas marketing materials supply coordination and special business department Mr. Manfred Hauerer.

Mr. Hauerer outlined how this method can reduce detergent prices compared to the use of petrochemicals as raw materials which also cause eutrophication and pollution in the lakes and rivers causing toxic effects on animals and environment.

The experts also reviewed the use of chemical raw materials such as fatty acids and methyl esters which are essential components of high performance for jet engines lubricants and synthetic and semi-synthetic motor oils.

They said that fatty alcohols can also be used in food making, extinguishing fires as well as lubricants, cosmetics, paints and other products.

Commenting on the use as partial substitution of Alkyl-Benzene Sulfonate (ABS) by tallow sulphate, which is surfactants for detergents industry, Dr. Kane said that there are two types of the ABS chain: Branched ABS which is prohibited in Europe and the U.S. — hence it does not meet with the environmental level — and the linear ABS which has a wide spread use because it is biodegradable and does not effect the environment and it meets with technical transfer at the highest level.

Turnover rises 17 per cent at Amman Financial Market

AMMAN (R) — Turnover in the Amman Financial Market (AFM), the official stock exchange, rose 17.6 per cent in year-end trading last month to four million dinars (\$9.8 million) from 3.4 million (\$8.3 million) in November, AFM's monthly bulletin said.

A total of 3.7 million shares were traded and 5,142 contracts concluded in December, compared with 3.6 million shares traded and 2,910 contracts signed in the previous month.

The AMF share price index fell 2.7 per cent during December.

The banking sector accounted for 46 per cent of the trading, the industrial sector 30 per cent, services 14 per cent and insurance 10 per cent.

Meanwhile, Jordan's narrowly defined M-1 money supply fell 2.2 per cent in November, compared with October to \$2.6 million dinars (\$2.1 billion), but was one per cent higher than in November 1983, Central Bank of Jordan figures showed.

M-1 comprises currency in circulation plus demand deposits at banks.

The more broadly-defined M-2 aggregate, which also includes time deposits, rose 0.6 per cent to 1.73 billion dinars (\$4.2 billion).

Gold and foreign exchange reserves fell to \$87.5 million dinars from 609.5 million dinars in October and 651.6 million dinars in November last year.

The central bank's industrial production index was 102.8 (base 1979) in November, down 15 per cent from October.

The overall cost of living index was 128.9 (base 1980), 0.3 per cent higher than the previous month.

OPEC faces major task

GENEVA (R) — A confrontation between producers of light and heavy grades of crude oil appeared to be in the making Saturday as delegates gathered for Monday's meeting of the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Oil ministers arriving for the committee meetings which preceded the full conference all agreed that the price gap should be reduced between the lightest and heaviest grades.

This so-called differential at present amounts to about \$3.75. But the crux of the problem is whether to raise the price of the currently popular heavy oils or to lower that of OPEC's expensive light grades.

Algerian Oil Minister Belkacem Nabi said Saturday he wanted the gap made "as narrow as possible — less than \$2."

Iraqi Oil Minister Qassem Ahmad Taqi, whose country also produces lighter grades, told Reuters it should be reduced by pushing up the price of heavy crudes.

Ministerial sources in the delegation from the United Arab Emirates, another light crude producer, predictably voiced the same opinion.

But Saudi Arabia's Ahmad Zaki Yamani was quoted in Algeria Friday as saying, "we don't intend to raise heavies."

Still OPEC's most influential force, Saudi Arabia, along with other heavy crude producers agreed only last month to add 50 cents to their price.

Several ministers have ruled out a change in the "benchmark" price of \$29 for a barrel of Arab light crude — the basis on which all other prices are determined.

"The benchmark is not on the agenda," said Mr. Nabi.

But adherence to this mark would not solve OPEC's basic problem that free market price levels for light crudes are well below those it officially tries to dictate.

In a rare moment of candour, one Gulf delegate told Reuters he privately considered the benchmark should be "what the market will bear."

Turkish central bank to expand gold trading

ANKARA (R) — Gold trading in Turkey, which began in Istanbul last month, is to be extended to three other cities, a decree in the official gazette said Saturday.

Central bank branches in Ankara, Izmir and Adana will begin buying and selling gold on Feb. 1, it said.

Trading at the central bank branch in Istanbul was opened last Dec. 15 as a way of crushing a thriving unofficial market at the city's covered bazaar.

The sales are also viewed by the government as a weapon against inflation — now around 54 per cent on an annual basis — in that they absorb money from the market, they added.

The central bank gold sales will stop on days when world markets are closed, Saturday's decree said.

YOUR DAILY
Horoscope
from the Carroll Righter Institute
FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, JAN. 27, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day and evening when you are apt to act hastily. Double-check whatever arises as your judgment is not at its best and communications can be unsatisfactory.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) It's important you are most conventional today even though inward pleasure is great to do otherwise. Be happy.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You are apt to upset the applecart today since you are discontent, but remain calm and know that you are doing fine.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Be careful not to get into any new interests that do not appeal to you and which another may try to pressure you into.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Use care in any public activities and keep out of trouble. Not a good day to ask a bigwig for favors.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Any risks you take today could bring trouble, so use much care. Avoid that new acquaintance whose ideas are radically different.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You have made promises that should be kept today without fail. Don't ring up any disputative subjects with a good friend.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Although you like to carefully analyze a matter before reaching a decision, a partner might try to hasten you into it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Make this a day of rest so that you can restore your energies and be ready for a busy week ahead. You can learn a great deal now.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You want to lambast your mate for some fancied wrong, and this would not be wise. Be more kind and tactful instead.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Don't try to force your views on those who dwell with you or a bad quarrel could result.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Make this Sunday a quiet and sensible one and don't go running around hither and yon. Avoid a possible accident.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Plan how you can get your money matters in better shape, and don't make any investments or spend beyond your ken.

THE BETTER HALF By Harris

"They're a gift from Stanley's cooking teacher — asbestos salad bowls!"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NICCY
TAREF
DOAZIC
REMMEB

WHAT THE PRICES OF SOME OF THOSE FROZEN FOODS DEFINITELY WEREN'T.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: "O O O O O O O O O O"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: RUPIL EPOCH CORPSE FROLIC
Answer: They might be UP CLOSE "COUPLES"

Peanuts

Mutt 'n' Jeff

Andy Capp

YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELF!

IT'S ONLY A POUND, LOOK IN THE PAPER AND SEE WHAT IT'S WORTH THESE DAYS

IT'LL NEVER SINK AS LOW AS THE LENGTHS YOU'LL GO TO GET ONE, PAL!!

THE Daily Crossword by Bernice Gordon

ACROSS

- Commune in IL
- Sway loosely
- Nurtured
- Heavy element
- Misadventure by Michelangelo
- Flow slowly
- Terrestrial bird
- Rate
- Marked with grooves
- at a time
- Urban dweller
- Flounder
- Through water
- Camera boom
- 11 0
- Cereal grass
- Harmless ant
- Nobleman
- Island off Venezuela
- Wings
- Narrow openings
- Son of Rebekah
- Hot drink
- Friend
- Amiens
- Team at Shea
- Eye
- See bird
- Spring up
- Pear-shaped instrument
- El Whitney's band
- A Vanderbilt
- Painting by Winslow Homer
- Places
- Tied out a cat
- Canadian-born singer
- Escape the notice of
- Be concerned
- up (present)
- Waller — Mare
- N.C. college
- Penalize
- Furnish
- Had dinner
- Conditional release
- Portends
- Imns
- Pound
- Say it isn't so
- Doughboy's wai
- Weather word
- Part of N.A.
- Conductor born in Hungary
- Dye
- Barricades
- the
- Wane
- Letters from Athens
- Ramen stalesman
- Millie and Peaton
- Think about old times
- Passage into the ocean
- Abominable snowman
- Brought up
- Mature
- Husband of Bathsheba
- Actress Baibara
- Joyful
- Anderson of TV
- Artist Steinberg
- 54 Horse poetry
- 55 Lal, job
- 56 Sporting fish
- 57 Actress Baibara
- 60 Corrida chee

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

GOING MATTHEW ABA
GODOR MARIAN TIES
ZODIAK RABBIT RUSH
FINANCIAL ROMANCE
SILV ASPEN
COCK TRIT TARS
MAZE WHITE PLEA
IRON OASIS DREY
STING ON TOP DRIES
STREET SIAN MOTIS
ENTREE VOIERS
IDEA GRAZE TRAE
WILL ASTER DILLA
EEL NEEJOY NIEER

India celebrates Republic Day amid tight security

NEW DELHI (R) — Tight security was clamped on New Delhi Saturday during India's Republic Day parade of tanks, jet fighters, elephants and saffron-robed monks.

Security forces manned roadblocks, guarded road bridges and frisked people, some of whom slept on the streets overnight to be assured of a place at the ceremony.

President Zail Singh, accompanied by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and guest of honor President Raul Alfonsin of Argentina, reviewed a column of Soviet-built T-72 tanks and Sikh infantry from a dais which the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said was protected by bullet-proof glass.

A government statement issued before the parade said about one million people were expected to attend the event, which marks the anniversary of the introduction of the Indian constitution on Jan. 26, 1950.

Mr. Gandhi, flanked by security guards, wore a tight-fitting quilted coat resembling a bullet-proof jacket.

Helicopters dropped rose petals

as schoolgirls on floats followed army and police units, including the Indo-Tibetan Security Force which is used as an "anti-terrorist" unit in the capital. A security man accompanied each float.

India's oldest cavalry regiment, Skinner's Horse, was equipped with modern T-72 tanks in camouflage paint while Sikh and Gurkha infantry marched to the tune of "Colonel Bogey."

PTI said teams of security men checked weapons and tanks to ensure that no ammunition was carried in the two-hour parade.

The Hindustan Times newspaper said Saturday four assassination squads armed with sophisticated weapons had penetrated Delhi with orders to kill Mr. Singh and Mr. Gandhi.

It said a massive manhunt had started after intelligence showed gunmen from India's Punjab state had entered Delhi on a mission to kill Zail Singh and Mr. Gandhi.

The paper quoted intelligence reports as saying that the four "terrorist" squads had been trained by Pakistan's military intelligence organisation.

Islamabad has denied charges by India that extremists waging a hit-and-run war for an independent Sikh state in Punjab have received arms and training in Pakistan.

Meanwhile India's spy scandal has taken a new turn with a suspect from Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's office saying he was falsely implicated in the affair.

PTI said T.N. Kher, personal assistant to Mr. Gandhi's principal secretary, had applied for bail and the application would be heard on Monday.

PTI quoted him as saying he had been falsely implicated and had been unable to meet his family or lawyer since his arrest.

Mr. Kher was one of at least 15 people, including six staff from Mr. Gandhi's secretariat, reported to have been arrested on suspicion of spying. About 1,500 people have been questioned.

Mr. Gandhi's principal secretary, P.C. Alexander, resigned

when the scandal broke last week.

More than 200 documents on arms purchases, defence plans, cabinet decisions and policy papers on neighbouring countries were leaked, according to press reports.

Newspapers have said France, the United States, West Germany and the Soviet Union were all involved and the Times of India newspaper said Saturday that India was likely to take measures against France.

"The French involvement, which undoubtedly went miles beyond snooping... is going to cost her dearly both in terms of political ties with India and commercial deals through which the French were hoping to make several million dollars," it said.

Press reports have implicated two French nationals as well as France's deputy military attaché in Delhi, Lt.-Col. Alain Bolley, who returned to Paris last Monday.

Col. Bolley has denied allegations he was linked with the scandal and the French embassy refused to comment on reports of French links with the espionage.



WARMING UP: U.S. President Ronald Reagan lets loose a showball outside the White House Friday after returning from speaking at the Constitution Hall to government appointees. An aide to the president looks on (AP wirephoto)

Iran denies arming Nicaragua

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (Agencies) — Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi has denied that his government is arranging additional oil shipments to Nicaragua or selling arms to the leftist Sandinista government.

"I am very astonished to hear about arms deals," Mr. Mousavi said at a news conference. There is nothing true about the reports, he said.

"Nicaragua does not need our arms," Mr. Mousavi said. "It is armed with its determination and its faith."

Mr. Mousavi spoke with reporters at Managua's airport as he ended a two-day visit to Nicaragua.

Iran's official News Agency (IRNA) reported earlier Friday that Mr. Mousavi had wished the Sandinista government success in its fight against the U.S.-backed rebels and said his country "will always be by the side of Nicaragua."

The White House said Friday it believed Iran was supporting the

left-wing Sandinista government in Nicaragua politically and was also discussing the supply of oil and arms funds to the Central American country.

The visit of Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi to Managua this week was evidence of Tehran's political backing, spokesman Robert Sims said.

He said Iran was discussing the possibility of an oil deal with Nicaragua, currently supplied by the Soviet Union and Mexico, as well as an arrangement to provide money for arms.

"Iran is in the process of providing assistance and supporting the Sandinistas... We have been concerned for some time by the additional involvement from outside the hemisphere," he said.

He declined to confirm a U.S. newspaper report that Mr. Mousavi was the "kingpin in the Iranian terrorist operation," but added: "Mousavi is believed to have some unusual portfolios in the Iranian cabinet."

A senior administration official

who asked not to be identified, said Iranian embassy officials in Managua had contacts with Colombia's M-19 guerrilla group.

"Adding the Iranian element of sophistication, its brand of terrorism and its enmity for the United States is troublesome for us," the official said.

President Reagan Thursday spoke of "a new danger in Central America" in what he called Iran's support for the Sandinista government, which the United States has accused of exporting revolution in the region.

He also cited danger from "the support of the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) and Col. Qadhafi's Libya" for Nicaragua.

Mr. Sims said Nicaragua had boosted its military buildup since last June, expanding its active armed forces by 12,000.

It also had added 50 tanks, bringing the total to 150, and 13 combat helicopters, including five attack craft "of the type used in Afghanistan," bringing their total

U.N. chief to discuss border fighting during visit to Vietnam on Monday

BANGKOK (R) — U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar Saturday condemned all military activity along the Thai-Kampuchean border and said he would raise the reported Vietnamese shelling of a Kampuchean civilian camp with Hanoi.

He told reporters after meeting Thai Foreign Minister Siddhi Savetisla, that he had not been officially briefed by U.N. officials on the Vietnamese attack on Dong Rak refugee camp on Thursday in which 18 civilians were killed and at least 28 were wounded.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar, who is due to visit Vietnam on Monday, said his tour of South East Asia would be futile if the shelling was not discussed in his talks with Vietnamese leaders.

"I would especially regret it if civilian casualties were involved," he said.

The Thai military said the three-hour Vietnamese attack on Kampuchean civilians sent another 22,000 refugees streaming into Thailand.

The refugees are followers of Son Sann, leader of the non-Communist Kampuchean People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), whose guerrillas have been the main target of the current Vietnamese dry-season offensive along the frontier.

Son Sann, in an interview with Reuters on the border, asked the world to condemn the Dong Rak attack and said he hoped the U.N. leader could visit its uprooted population inside Thailand Sunday when he visits the border area.

"I feel their misfortune in my flesh and blood. I had previously predicted that the Vietnamese would kill our civilians but no one believed me," he said.

U.S. court sentences 3 Armenians for bomb plot

LOS ANGELES (R) — Three Armenians, described by a prosecutor as part of the fabric of terrorism, were sentenced to a total of 15 years imprisonment for plotting to bomb the offices of the Turkish consul general in Philadelphia.

Viken Hovsepian, 24, was sentenced to six years imprisonment; Karim Sakisian, 31, to five years imprisonment; and Steven Dadaian, 22, to four years.

In a courtroom packed with Armenians, U.S. federal judge Mariana Pfaltzer tempered a call

by the prosecution to send a message round the world to terrorists by issuing stiff prison sentences.

The sentences could have ranged up to 25 years for Hovsepian. The consulate general was not attacked, but the accused were alleged to have transported explosives across American state borders.

Armenian organisations have in the past claimed bomb attacks on Turkish offices were in retaliation for what they say was the massacre of 1.5 million Armenians during World War I.

Pope starts tour of L. America

ROME (R) — Pope John Paul left Rome Saturday on the 25th foreign trip of his papacy, a 12-day visit to Latin America which is expected to address the urgent social and religious problems of the region.

Officials at Rome's Fiumicino Airport said the Pope took off at 10:40 a.m. for what will be his sixth visit to a continent which is going through its worst economic crisis in 50 years.

From oil-rich Venezuela, the pontiff will go to impoverished Ecuador and Peru and the Caribbean state of Trinidad and Tobago on his sixth tour of the region.

President Jaime Lusinchi will welcome the Pope when he arrives at Maiquetia Airport, 17 kilometres outside Caracas.

During his 72-hour stay, the Pope will visit the oil city of Maracaibo, Merida in the Andes and the industrial city of Ciudad Guayana on the Orinoco River.

Local church officials say Venezuela is facing a crisis of morals following the affluence of an oil boom in the 1970s and hope the visit will revive a declining faith.

"We expect the Pope to touch on the riches of recent years, the easy living and the corruption it has generated," Monsignor Baltazar Porras, coordinator of the visit, said.

On the drive up to the capital from the seaside airport, the Pope will see the slums sprawling out of the Caracas Valley into the surrounding hills, manifesting the contrast between rich and poor.

Over the past week, soldiers have been planting trees and cleaning up the route to the Miraflores Presidential Palace, where the Pontiff will meet Mr. Lusinchi for an hour.

Mr. Lusinchi Friday night pardoned 23 criminals in a traditional gesture and banned civilians from bearing firearms during the Papal visit.

Much of the \$6 million being spent on the visit has gone on cleaning up Caracas. The Miraflores Palace has received a new coat of paint and the ubiquitous city pot-holes are being filled.

A U.S. State Department spokesman in Washington said: "Obviously, the involvement of members of an intelligence organisation is a very serious matter."

Several members of Taiwan's parliament have said that unless the government took swift action to bring those responsible to justice its reputation and its ties with the United States could be seriously damaged.

A U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee has already said it would launch hearings into Liu's murder which could lead to a halt in U.S. arms sales to Taiwan.

Ties between Washington and Taipei were strained in 1982 when a Chinese-American professor, also a critic of government policies, was found dead on the campus of Taipei's National Taiwan University.

Taiwanese authorities said professor Chen Wen-Chen, committed suicide following brief detention by security officials, but Taiwanese dissidents in the United States claimed he was murdered.

Taiwan to hold open trial of suspected killers of writer

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan, fearing long-lasting damage to its reputation, especially its ties with the United States, will soon try in public those suspected of murdering a Chinese-American writer in California last year, a ruling Kuomintang (Nationalist) Party official said Saturday.

The official, who preferred not to be named, said the government was determined to get to the bottom of the murder but declined to say when the trial would take place.

Two "Bamboo Union" gang leaders, Chen Chi-Liang and Wu Tun, have been named by U.S. authorities as suspects in the killing of Henry Liu, 52, a critic of Taiwan's Nationalist government, who was shot dead in Daly City, California, on Oct. 15.

Taiwan has also detained three senior intelligence officers, Vice Admiral Wang Hsi-Ling, Maj. Gen. Hu Yi-Min, head and deputy head of the intelligence bureau, and Chen Hu-Men, a deputy department head of the bureau, in connection with the murder.

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VIP tried to seduce Thatcher, MP says

LONDON (R) — A sensational account of how a tipsy VIP tried to seduce Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has Britain abuzz with curiosity about who the suitor might be.

Members of parliament listened in astonishment Friday as Nicholas Fairbairn, former solicitor general for Scotland, recounted how Mrs. Thatcher was propositioned during a party at Edinburgh's Holyrood Palace.

Informants said she had always been the object of the dignitary's desire. Mr. Thatcher was said to have cooled his ardour by saying: "Quite Right. You have very good taste but I just don't think you would make it at the moment."

"Who is the mystery man?" were the words on the lips of the entire political world, the popular Daily Express said.

"Could the spurned suitor have been Fairbairn himself?" it ventured.

Even the usually sober Daily

Telegraph admitted that there was a certain amount of interest among members of parliament.

The question remains unanswered.

After the session in parliament, where legislators were debating a bill to stop motorists soliciting women, Mr. Fairbairn declined to elaborate.

Fearing that he had already been indiscreet he said with a smile: "Just imagine it was me."

Mrs. Thatcher, 59, was not in parliament to hear Mr. Fairbairn's story. He said it highlighted a flaw in the sexual offences bill, which would make it an offence for a man to solicit a woman for sexual ends in a way "likely to cause her fear."

Mr. Fairbairn, who served for three years in the Scottish legal post before resigning in 1982, wondered aloud if what happened to Mrs. Thatcher would have been an offence under the proposed law.

He said the incident took place while he was in office and accompanying the prime minister when she was a palace guest of the Lord High Commissioner of the Church of Scotland.

Spokesman for Mrs. Thatcher declined comment.

In his objections to parts of the bill, Mr. Fairbairn also said of its woman sponsor, fellow Conservative Janet Fookes: "I have always been attracted to her and I have never actually dared to ask her if she would go to bed with me."

"But after this I would have to say to myself — how am I going to put it to her so that it's not likely to cause her fear?"

Mr. Fairbairn quit his government post after controversy over a decision not to prosecute three alleged rapists in the Scottish city of Glasgow. In 1981 he refused to resign after a woman secretary allegedly tried to kill herself outside his home.

Chinese told to 'forget class struggle'

PEKING (AP) — There's been too much useless spouting of Marxist phrases and political slogans in Communist China's 35-year history, party officials in Peking have been told by their propaganda chief.

Mao Tse-tung's directives to "take class struggle as the key link" and "put politics above everything else" should be discarded, propaganda boss Wang Daming told the city's 5,000 political cadres, according to a report Saturday in the official English-language China Daily.

At a meeting on ideological

problems in post-Mao China Mr. Wang said party representatives should drop their bossy image and win people over through friendly chats.

"Cadres should convince people by reasoning and win them over by sympathy, not by coercion," the official Xinhua News Agency quoted Mr. Wang as saying.

Labelling and victimising people, a practice rampant during the 1966-76 "Cultural Revolution," must be abolished completely, Mr. Wang said.

He held up the example of

Juan Xueqian, 48, a woman propaganda chief at Peking's motor vehicle plant. Fellow workers visit her at home to say what's on their minds and seek help in solving problems.

Wang said that in addition to studying political and economic theories, science, technology and psychology, cadres should watch more films and theater and read novels to tune into the common language of the people.

He called on cadres to ally fears that the price reforms announced last Oct. 20 will lead to spiralling inflation.

The league claims to represent the millions of Germans and their descendants who fled or were exiled from Silesia, the once-German province which became part of Poland after Nazi Germany's defeat in 1945. The group's lunerally in Hanover is expected to draw some 150,000 people.

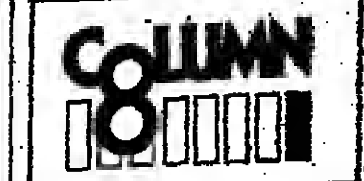
The article fantasised: "Only sections of the armed forces in Czechoslovakia and Poland provide resistance, which is soon broken."

It added: "...The overwhelming majority of the people greet the Germans as liberators."

The Soviet Union, collapsing under a war with China and a Muslim uprising in Central Asia, makes an attempt to stop the Germans retaking territories of the former Reich, it said.

"The day of German reunification had come — without war," it added.

Earlier this week Poland, Czechoslovakia and East Germany denounced Mr. Kohl's plan to address the "revanchist" gathering.



10 men held for planning to kidnap footballer

ROME (R) — Police arrested 10 suspected mafia members who they said had once planned to kidnap Paolo Roberto Falcao, Brazilian-born star of the Italian first division soccer club Roma. Police said the 10, who were arrested on charges of mafia-style conspiracy and drug-trafficking, were part of a group which had made plans in 1982 to abduct Falcao. They said the group had collected information on the habits and movements of the Brazilian midfielder, but had to abandon their plan after some of their number were arrested on drugs and conspiracy charges.

Pirates attack ships at Kenyan port

MOMBASA, Kenya (AP) — Tugs known as "canoe pirates" have attacked and robbed five foreign ships anchored midstream off the Indian Ocean port during the past month, police and shipping sources said Friday. Three suspects were arrested Monday while trying to sneak onto a freighter, they said. The sources said a seaman aboard an Irish-flag ship, the Irish Cedar, held by authorities here after offloading 20,000 metric tons of Thai maize (corn), sustained serious stab wounds in a pirate attack last week. Shipping officials complained that incidents were now occurring at the rate of three to four a month. Pirates, paddling canoes as dark skiffs on the port's mooring basin, climb aboard ships and then break open containers, they added.

Teenager charged with killing soldier when 12-year-old

BELFAST (R) — A 16-year-old youth in Northern Ireland has been charged with murdering a soldier four years ago, when he was only 12 years old. The youth, who was not named, appeared before a magistrate in Enniskillen, County Fermanagh. He was remanded in custody for a week. He was charged with murdering a member of the locally-recruited, mainly part-time Ulster Defence Regiment, who was shot dead in Lisnakea, near Enniskillen, in June 1981. He was also charged with possessing two rifles with intent to endanger life, collecting information about security forces likely to be of use to terrorists, and belonging to a banned organisation. He is due to appear in court in Belfast on Monday.

Mitterrand rubs shoulders with Asterix

ANGOULEME, France (R) — President Francois Mitterrand shook off the cares of the adult world Saturday for a brief plunge into the comic strip Fantasy Land of Asterix, Tin Tin, and Superman. A beaming Mitterrand, surrounded by wide-eyed youngsters, flipped through the adventures of the world's comic book heroes during a visit to the 14th edition of the International Comic Strip Fair in this south-western town. "I want to support projects that touch on our lifestyle and our creative capacities," he told reporters. In return for the presidential approval, cartoonists made Mr. Mitterrand the hero of the day. Le Monde made him a sullen pun and local papers showed Tin Tin teaching him the "bam, wham ouch" of comic strip jargon. Although the United States leads the world in the production of comic strips and cartoons, France is regarded as a front runner in the publication of the sophisticated comic album read by children and adults alike.

Australia still has safest airlines

LONDON (R) — Australian airlines have now held the world safety record for more than 30 years, the British weekly Flight International has reported. Scandinavian companies ranked second on the list and the Soviet Union, Turkey, Egypt and Indonesia stood at the bottom. The magazine said after surveying the safety records of 18 leading airlines countries from 1973 to 1984. Captains and engineers of the Australian airlines Ansett and Qantas attributed the safety levels to discipline and respect for authority without fear, the magazine said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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MISSING THE HEART OF THE MATTER

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH			EAST	
♠ Q9553			♠ A4	
♥ J107			♥ A8432	
♦ QJ			♦ A53	
♣ K43			♣ 872	

WEST		EAST
♠ A7		♠ 64
♥ K65		♥ A8432
♦ 98742		♦ A53
♣ 1096		♣ 872

SOUTH

♠ KJ102
♥ Q9
♦ K106
♣ AQJ5

The bidding:
South West North East
1NT Pass 2♣ Pass
2♣ Pass 4♣ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♠.

For deception to succeed, you don't need the big lie. It is usually sufficient to deflect the attention from the crucial suit to another, as this example highlights.

North intended to employ the Stayman Convention as an invitational sequence over his partner's no trump opening. However, when South showed a spade suit, North changed his mind and barged into game. Because of his collection of quacks (as queens and jacks are known in the trade), he might have been wiser to carry through with